MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, THE FARM AND THE GARDEN. THE FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &c.

AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

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Editorial.

FARMYARD MANURE.

Notwithstanding the astonishing progress which the manufacture and use of commercial or concentrated fertilizers has made within the last few years, the value of farmyard manures appears to be estimated, among farmers, as highly as ever. Experience has taught that they accomplish the desired result, when properly applied in sufficient quantities. Chemists have proved over and over again that though they contain a vast amount of comparatively worthless materials, they still hold the essential elements of plant food in considerable quantities. Let us look into it a little.

At a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture when this subject was under discussion Dr. J. R. Nichols spoke as follows: Allow me to present the results of some determinations of my own on this point. A parcel obtained from the yard of a neighbor, which, under the conditions in which it was produced and preserved, may be regarded as a fair representative of the article as furnished by ordinary farmers, gave the following results: A portion weighing 7,280 grains was carefully dried in a porcelain dish over a water bath, and it was found to lose of water 5,960 grains, leaving of dry matter 1,320 grains. Of the residuum thus freed from moisture, 455 grains were placed in a platinum capsule and carefully ignited, thus removing the combustible or carbonaceous matter made up of the elements—oxygen, hydrogen and carbon. The resultant ash weighed 177 grains, showing a loss of volatile or combustible elements amounting to 278 grains. In order that the results of the analysis may be clearly understood, it may be desirable to present them without regard to fractional parts, and to estimate by the whole amount experimented with, viz., 7,280 grains. This amount gave of water, 5,960 grains; combustible or carbonaceous matter, 866; nitrogen, 29; potash and soda, 41; lime, 43; magnesia, 14; phosphoric acid, 15; sulphuric acid, 11; chlorine, 14; silicon or sand, 335; oxide of iron and alumina, 22. The points in this examination which will doubtless appear most striking, are the large amounts of worthless material which constitute the bulk of barnyard manure, the water and sand greatly predominating over everything else.

A better idea of this may be obtained if the results of the analysis are applied to a larger amount of manure, which will give the constituents in pounds. Assuming that a cord of ordinary barnyard manure will weigh 3,000 pounds, its actual value as a fertilizer may be presented as follows: There are contained in it of water, 2,456 pounds; common sand, 138 pounds. These added together give 2,594 pounds of perfectly worthless substances. Now, if we still further subtract the carbonaceous matter, 332 pounds, which is of no more value than muck, peat, straw or chaff, we have left only 74 pounds of active fertilizing material which has a money value. To obtain this 74 pounds, which really is all that is valuable, the farmer loads and hauls upon his field 3,000 pounds, or one and a half tons of a compound in which there is water enough to do the weekly washing of a small neighborhood, and a sufficiency of sand to keep the kitchen floor tidy for a month. The 74 pounds of mineral salts might be taken in an ordinary bushel basket, and carried upon the shoulder to any point desired. In this amount there is the nitrogen, potash, soda, lime, magnesia, phosphoric acid, sulphuric acid, chlorine, iron and alum. In estimating the market value of these substances, we may obtain the nitrogen by the use of crude nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia, at a cost of $2.60; the potash, soda, &c., in one and one-half bushels of good wood ashes, at 35 cents, and fifteen pounds of common salt, ten pounds of bone dust, three pounds of gypsum will supply the remaining constituents, at a cost of fifty cents. If we estimate the carbonaceous matter at ten cents, we have, as the actual cash value of all that promotes plant growth in 3,000 pounds of barnyard manure, the sum of $3.35. There are but few localities where the farmer can purchase manure at less than $7.00 a cord; and when to this we add the expense of hauling and applying to fields, we find there is a wide margin between the cost of the isolated valuable constituents of manure, and the article as furnished in its natural condition. Barnyard manure may be imitated by thoroughly composting with a cord of seasoned meadow muck sixty-five pounds of crude nitrate of soda, two bushels of wood ashes, one peck of common salt, ten pounds of fine bone meal, two quarts of plaster and ten pounds of epsom salts. The cost of this compost will not be over $3.50 the cord, and ought, other things being equal, to serve as good purpose in the field.

This simple formula for the manufacture of a substitute for barnyard manure does not appear to have come into practice to any great extent, though if it were found to produce the same result it is difficult to see why it should not be more generally adopted. The fact is this "fixed up thing" don't seem to produce the same effect as the real genuine article.

TIME TO CUT TREES.

We have spoken repeatedly in the *Ploughman* of the importance of cutting firewood at this season of the year and laying in a stock for a year or two ahead. It is always best to have a regular time for all the operations of the farm and to adhere to it as closely as circumstances will permit. But apart from that there is a real economy in cutting wood either for timber or for firewood when the tree is dormant, that is, when the sap is not active. If any one doubts this let him give it a fair trial and he will easily see that this is true as a general rule with all kinds of wood used for fuel or in the arts. An extensive inquiry has been made in Prussia into the effect upon the durability of woods of the season at which the trees are cut down. In general, the wood felled when the sap is not running has a decided preeminence as to its durability, strength and density. The heat given out in burning wood felled in December and January is also, according to these experiments, greater than for woods cut in February and March.

If any reader of the *Ploughman* has wood to cut, either for timber or for fuel, let him lose no time in going at it and he will save enough to pay his year's subscription many times over.

OUR BREEDING STOCK.

No doubt the farmers of New England have made decided progress in the breeding of cattle within the last twenty years. This is too apparent to any one who has been in the habit of attending our county and town fairs during that time. Still there is much room for improvement and we ought not to stop where we are but to press forward to something higher and better than anything yet attained. Step by step, it may be, and by slow degree we shall improve our stock and bring it up to a much higher level of excellence.

We incline to think the point to look at more carefully now is the quality of the dam from which we propose to raise stock. Our great effort has been devoted chiefly to the male, and this it must be acknowledged, is the true way to begin. But well begun is only half well done. We are too prone to pay little attention to the quality of the dam, and to think that if the service of the best male is secured, the end will come out all right.

It will be admitted that it is of the utmost consequence to look out for the pedigree and especially the quality of the sire. That is a settled rule. We want to see him perfect or as nearly perfect of his kind, as possible and we can afford to go to considerable expense to secure this perfection, in the male. But if we are to arrive at a certain perfection in the offspring, *both* parents must be perfect. This law holds good in regard to all animals, not excepting man. This certain transmission of qualities will be readily seen to be of great benefit in the rearing of our domestic animals if properly taken advantage of. If we wish to raise a good dairy, we should breed our best milkers to bulls regularly descended from a line of ancestors eminent for that quality; and, in this region, we should breed from no others, for the product of the dairy is the most important agricultural product to which our cattle contribute. Even if we wish for beef or work, we are not aware that the possession of a good milking pedigree detracts in the least from those qualities; for which reasons breeders who are raising thoroughbred stock to supply the wants of New England with breeders, should begin to understand that everything in their line is *below par* that does not possess the power to transmit excellence in the dairy. This doctrine, or law of transmission, is a two-edged sword, and will cut to the quick in the wrong direction if the least impurity of the blood remains in our breeding stock. This is the doctrine of the thorough-breeders. We are all acquainted with what is denominated *breeding back*, that offspring are as likely, or more so, to put on the appearance of the grandsire or granddam, even farther back, as of the father or mother, especially if they descend from a race of long-established character. Thorough-breeders, beware that you do not sow tares with your wheat, for your tares, you say, are more likely to take root than the wheat.

Now what we have to do is to weed out the tares, to cull out and sell all inferior specimens and to breed only from the best. When the whole body of farmers have come up to this point, we shall have made a great step in advance. The improvement of our stock is certainly, as claimed by our breeders, a matter that can hardly be overrated. If any one has not worked up to this idea, let him cast back to the time previous to the injection of better "blood" into the veins of our cattle, when our *very best* two-year-old cattle, when butchered, would only on rare occasions come up to five hundred pounds, dressed weight, and so unthrifty or of so small capacity for growth as to hardly pay for their keep. Then let him compare what he can recollect of them, with what is patent to his senses now, when he beholds our best stock, which our best breeders and raisers annually exhibit at our fairs, and though as inclined to sleep as Rip Van Winkle, we think he would be thoroughly aroused.

The first efforts at improvement of our cattle began with a few individual farmers here and there. They persevered till one after another followed their example. The result of their labors is what we behold today in the improved condition of New England cattle. The number now interested in this department of farming is vastly greater than it was twenty years ago, but we must not cease our efforts till the interest becomes universal.

☞ The following method is used in Germany for the preservation of wood: Mix forty parts chalk, fifty resin, four linseed oil, melting them together in an iron pot; then add one part native oxide of copper, and afterwards one part of sulphuric acid. Apply with a brush. When dry, this varnish is as hard as stone.

☞ Green corn fodder is preserved in France, by being buried in trenches and the whole covered with earth. Its preservation is due to the exclusion of the air. The fodder is used for feeding the cattle in winter. The ground must be dry where it is preserved.

THE FARMER'S LIBRARY.

We have often called the attention of the readers of the *Ploughman*, to the importance of giving a reasonable portion of this comparatively leisure season of the year to reading and study. It is just as much a duty we owe to ourselves and those about us to grow in mental power and culture as it is to grow in wealth. Now we admit the difficulty about books, that is, the cost and the impossibility, in many cases, of procuring expensive volumes to be kept in the farmhouse, and hence we have earnestly advocated the establishment of town and Farmer's Club libraries, where all the best standard works on agriculture and the sciences which bear upon it, may be found and be freely used by those who desire to profit by them.

Still there are some works that ought to be owned by every farmer. There should be a library in the house, even if necessity compels it to be small. The smaller it is the more select it should be. On this subject the *New York Times* very justly says:

"There are some books that every farmer ought to own and keep on his shelves for daily study and reference. The possession of these books would be one of the greatest possible incentives to the acquisition of practical knowledge. For instance, there is the valuable little work by Dr. Darlington, *American Weeds and Useful Plants*, which describes not only the common weeds but also those plants which are of value for various purposes. Numerous illustrations serve to identify the various plants, and we can hardly suppose that any intelligent farmer or farmer's son or daughter who studies this book would rest until he or she had procured a collection of these plants from the farm or neighborhood, which would not only of itself be of great value and interest, but would lead to further study and considerable acquaintance with botany as a science. The first dawn of new facts upon the mind serves to throw light upon a number of others, and a knowledge of these introduces more and more, which in their turn introduces others. Thus as the country dweller gets an insight into the natural history of the world about him, the boundaries of his knowledge enlarge in every direction. From plants he will turn to insects, and Harris's *Insects Injurious to Vegetation* will be studied, and the pests of his orchard and crops will be collected, studied, and identified. Thus a fair acquaintance with entomology may be gained, which, in its turn, will open other fields of investigation. The soil beneath his feet, which he ploughs and cultivates, will be a grand subject for study. Johnston's *Agricultural Chemistry* will give a very clear and intelligible account of the nature of the soil, of the air and water which give it the power to sustain vegetable life, of the science of manuring and of growing crops, of feeding crops to cattle, of the nature of animal growth, of the character of milk, butter, and cheese, and of a great number of valuable experiments upon practical agriculture. Waring's *Draining for Profit and Health* will then be read with interest, although the means for carrying the practice into effect to full extent may not be at hand. Dadd's *American Cattle Doctor* will be usefully consulted upon many an occasion, and Mahew's *Illustrated Horse Management* will help to prevent many of the troubles which the former will help to remove. *The Horse* by "Stonehenge," will be read with the greatest interest by every lover of the noble animal. Bryant's *Forest Tree Culturist*, read with the interest that it cannot fail to excite, would soon help to plant the roadside and the corners of the farm with useful trees and embellish the homestead with ornamental ones. Josiah Quincy on *Soiling Cattle*; Youmans' *Household Science*; Henderson's *Gardening for Pleasure* and Fuller's *Small Fruit Culturist*, will all be found hand books of such constant necessity that the wonder will be how it was possible to get along without them heretofore. Every one of these books should be owned and studied by the farmer who would be well informed in the matters pertaining to his business, and they are plain practical books, easily understood and thoroughly trustworthy. The writers are men who have worked with their hands and who tell simply what they have thus learned."

The subjects embraced in the above list of books are sufficiently varied and comprehensive to furnish a wide field for study and thought. We should vary the list a little and make it much more select and valuable in one or two points. In the first place Darlington's *American Weeds* and *Useful Plants*, is all right. It is the best work of its kind we have and there can be no mistake in getting that. The same may be said of *Harris on Insects*. No other work is equal to it in authority or value upon that subject. Johnston's *Agricultural Chemistry* was one of the best books of its kind at the time of its issue twenty or thirty years ago. There are many other works now that are more practically useful and far better worth the money, American books too, while that is a foreign one. We would have Johnson's *How Plants Grow* and *How Plants Feed*, in place of Johnston's Chemistry.

The next is Waring's *Draining for Profit*, and it is a good and useful book, perhaps as good as could be found on that subject. Get that by all means. Dadd's *American Cattle Doctor* never was good for much anyhow and is of very much less value now than it was a quarter of a century ago. It was got up to make money on when Dadd first began practice here in Boston, and it sold well because there was nothing else, at the time, but it was the first of his books and written before he had any practical knowledge of his profession and was only a compilation at that. The elaborate chapter on the diseases of cattle in Flint's *Milch Cows and Dairy Farming* was prepared ten years later; chiefly by Dr. Dodd assisted by Dr. Wood and other veterinarians, and to our certain knowledge many of its prescriptions have been the means of saving the lives of sick animals, and farmers have told us that they had derived aid enough from this one chapter to pay for the cost of the book many times over. Mayhew's *Illustrated Horse Management* is a good book, but we think Stonehenge is better. Fuller's *Forest Tree Culturist*, we suppose the writer means, instead of Bryant's. We are not familiar with the latter, but Fuller's little treatise is excellent. Quincy on *Soiling Cattle* is a little book written many years ago upon a limited specialty and probably the requisite amount of information on this subject would be found in Allen's *American Cattle* or in Flint's *Dairy Farming*. Henderson's *Gardening for Profit* is a good and very useful treatise well worth all the cost, and so is Fuller's *Small Fruit Culturist*. We would add Flint's *Grasses and Forage Plants* as the best and almost the only complete treatise upon that subject. We may add that "When these books have been well studied, others will present themselves, but there is, in these few, matter enough for more than one year's study. It is one of the purposes of the columns of the *Ploughman* to help to explain any difficulty which may arise in such studies as we have here indicated, and we promise our readers every assistance that we can give them. A reference to the inquiries which are made week after week would clearly show how many of them would be unnecessary, and how much time and trouble would be saved if even the few standard books here mentioned were at hand to be consulted or were well studied."

WHY YOUNG MEN LEAVE THE FARM.

The following extract from a private letter received from a gentleman well known in the annals of rural literature, may interest our readers:

When I was a mere youth I took part in a conversation with a number of the young men of my acquaintance about the inducements presented by the different occupations of society. The majority were greatly in favor of trade. A young lawyer said that trade offered better chances for growing rich than even the profession of the law; and he instanced a brother of his, who though but twenty-five years of age, had gained a fortune in the hardware business, while he could not yet earn $500 a year.

They were unanimous in condemning the farmer's occupation and all those callings which are remunerated by a salary, and they all declared that a business which offered a few chances for making a fortune, with many failing was most desirable. I recollect how they expressed their surprise when I said that if I could be assured of $1,000 a year, on the condition that I would not endeavor to increase it and would refuse an income from any other source, I would accept it. Here is the whole cause of the aversion of young men to the business of farming. They prefer the small chance of getting rich in trade to the certainty of independence without any such chance. Perhaps the present financial crisis which has thrown so many young men out of trade may show them the necessity of contenting themselves with the humble competence which is offered by agriculture.—*Prairie Farmer.*

The Farm.

THE RIPENING OF CORN.

W. B. Pratt discussed an interesting question in a letter to the Elmira, N. Y., Farmers' Club:

Allow me to dissent from the idea somewhat current among your speakers or writers, that to cut corn as soon as it is glazed is to render the stalks innutritious. They say the corn will ripen but at the expense of the fodder. Their theory must suppose a continual circulation of the sap after the corn is cut, whereas I should as soon expect a natural coursing of the blood in the veins of the human body after the man's head was off. The glazed corn is sound when dried, because it is matured. The smallest hard speck is the signal of maturity to the human eye. If immediately stripped and the but partially hardened kernels exposed to rapid evaporation, they will not be as plump as when protected for a time by the husks. And this is so whether the ear is broken from the stalk or not.

Take two ears of equal ripeness, strip down the husks of one of them while yet attached to the severed stalk, break off the other, but leave the husks untouched, and the latter will come out best, showing that it is not because the kernel draws support from the stalk that it is plumper, but because of the protection against too rapid drying while partially soft that the husks give it.

Let us reason from analogy: Millers tell us that wheat is heavier and of better quality for flour if cut ten days before it is ripe. Who of your Club will say that the early cut straw is worth less for fodder than the late? If thirty years' experience have taught the writer anything, it is that early cut oats are brighter and heavier than those allowed to stand till dead ripe. Which one of your savans will say that the early cut straw is damaged for feeding by being drawn from the shock, by the unhardened oats, and that the dead ripe straw is of the better quality? Does a different law govern corn and corn fodder? If early cutting gives the best results with the former, why should it not also with the latter? It does, in my poor opinion, the only disadvantage from the practice being that it makes slower and harder husking.

DECEMBER.

It is winter now, but if we have done our whole duty we are not to be daunted by the cold and cheerless aspect of nature without. It is true the flocks and herds are thrown upon our care, and are almost helplessly dependent upon us, for food and shelter. Some folks seem to envy the farmers of a milder clime, where the cattle can graze in pastures still green, and take care of themselves. I don't take stock in this sentiment. It is not merely a matter of necessity, but a real pleasure to take care of stock at this season of the year, but then it ought to be borne in mind that the stalling of cattle is requisite to the successful pursuit of any system of farming, and that real progress turns upon it since it is the natural mode of keeping up and increasing the fertility of our lands. The economy of manures is founded upon it, and so we find that where the winters are so mild that the cattle are not stall fed of necessity, the soil becomes exhausted. We must submit to it anyhow, and let us make up our minds that it is all for the best. Get a little time to attend the farmers' club, and take hold and help on the sociability of the neighborhood.—*Old Farmer's Almanac.*

SMOKING IN THE BARN.—"No smoking" is posted in most decent factories—it ought to be posted in every barn. There is not much difference between having a horse-thief around the stables, and a man cleaning off horses with a pipe in his mouth; and there is no hired man much meaner than the one who, when his employer comes round, slips his pipe into his pocket or holds his hand over it as if it were a little bird. All such fellows should be paid off, or sacked off, and kept off. As for the farmer himself going into the barn with a pipe in his mouth, no complaint can be made; but if his establishment burns up nobody should cry unless it be the wife and children. Lightning and incendiaries, and spontaneous combustion combined, do not cause as many barns to be burned as the pipe; and generally at least one good horse goes also. It would be much better if the smoker could go up with the smoke, and have smoke enough for once.—MICAWBER in *N. Y. Tribune.*

☞ Seventy-nine cattle, after 1,100 miles of inland journey from Illinois, were embarked not long since at Montreal for Europe. Twenty-nine of them succumbed to improper diet during the ocean voyage and had to be consigned to the waves; the remainder arrived at their destination in good condition and were lately sold at Glasgow for an average of $160 per head. Commenting on these facts, the London *Agricultural Gazette* says: "There can be no doubt that when a little more experience has been gained, and a little more judicious treatment on board ship is exhibited, American beasts can be brought to British emporiums at a profit to the sender, and their presence in our markets would be a decided benefit to the consumers, as they would tend to reduce the extravagant prices now prevailing."

The Horse.

TREATMENT OF SHYING HORSES.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Will you be so good as to give some information through the columns of the *Ploughman* about the Flemish Beauty pear? I have heard it spoken very highly of, and want to set out a few good varieties of pear trees, enough for family use.

YOUNG FARMER.

Fitchburg, Dec. 13th, 1875.

The Flemish Beauty is a nice, clear growing, hardy tree, nice as the Bartlett; but sometimes the fruit cracks badly and is almost a failure. At other seasons it is remarkably good. In some localities it is capital; in others, insipid. It rots inside first. You may think you are going to have something nice, but if you happen to pinch it a little hard your thumb will go through. There is a great demand for the tree, and will be for the present.

We should say you ought to include the Duchess in your list. The Duchess is the pear more generally planted in our region than any other late pear. It grows large, and some say it is a capital pear; others, that it is about second rate; and occasionally a gentleman will say it is third rate. Opinions vary in relation to the quality of the fruit; but at any rate, no matter about the quality, it is profitable to raise, because you can always sell it, and at a high price. It is so fine in appearance, that, coming at a season when fruits are comparatively scarce—in November (it can be put up to December sometimes, but November is the month for it)—it always commands a high price. We have heard of their being sold for six dollars a dozen.—[ED.

SALT ON RUN OUT LAND.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Will you be kind enough to give me information in regard to using salt on grass lands; and the question is, will it pay to buy refuse salt at 17 cents per bushel to sow broadcast on mowing land that is run out and does not yield more than half to one ton of hay to the acre, and how much to sow on the acre that will do any good? The land is clay loam with black loam on top (hill land flat). I have seventy acres of mowing land that is excellent for grass if it could be manured, but the expense would be too great to get manure on it. Hay will always sell with some profit, if it is good quality. Will you be kind enough to inform me about it, and oblige your OLD PATRON.

Rockdale, Dec. 16, 1875.

If this land had been ours to manage we should have been inclined to plough it deeply last September and let it lie over winter then put on the harrow every week or ten days in the spring till about the first or tenth of June. Then we would give it a good dressing of some concentrated fertilizer, the best superphosphate in the market, 400 lbs. to the acre, and sow it to Hungarian grass. By the 1st of August next, it would give us two and a half to three tons of good hay to the acre. Then the land should be ploughed again, shallow it may be this time, when it might receive another good dressing of some concentrated fertiliser and sow down again to grass seed.

That treatment would probably bring it back into good grass, and the expense would not be great. The fertilizer would cost something, to be sure, but the cost of that would be returned in the Hungarian grass, a part of which might be sold to meet the expense, while the balance might be fed out to stock to add to the manure heap the following year.

A run out lot of grass land can be top-dressed to advantage provided the grass roots are strong and vigorous, and some salt can be used to advantage, perhaps, but in most cases of the kind it needs a more radical treatment, and a thorough ploughing is a great service to it. The direct application of salt is not generally to be recommended. It requires great precaution, or there will be places where it will cause a positive injury. Whatever beneficial effect it may have in any case is due rather to its *indirect* than to its direct action; that is, it merely aids in the solution of phosphate of lime, or other compounds existing in the soil, and increases the water absorbing properties of the soil, and hence it may assist, both by its chemical and physical action, in the disintegration of plant food, but it does not directly supply plant food. It is a good rule to follow, that the cheapest and safest way to supply salt to your land, if you are sure it needs it, is to feed it to your live stock, the cows and sheep. The natural channels of distribution are always the best.—[ED.

STEAMING FOOD FOR STOCK.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Can you or any of the readers of the *Ploughman* inform me as to the proper method of steaming fodder and grains for cattle, how much grain to one hundred pounds of hay and how much water,

And oblige, J. E. W.

Where steaming is practiced it is more frequently to render straw, corn stalks and the coarser kinds of fodder palatable and more readily nutritious. Hay, that is the better qualities of hay, do not need steaming and as a general rule we think it is better fed long, or in its normal condition, not cut.

Chopped straw or corn stalks may be cooked to advantage, so as to be made to be worth nearly as much as good hay, and a little grain added to it will make it quite equal with hay in value. Ten pounds of straw and two quarts of middlings will be equal to ten pounds of hay. Barley and oat straw are about equal in value and next to them wheat, and then rye straw. Middlings of good quality are better than meal as they contain about 18 per cent. of muscle forming elements, while meal has only about 10 per cent.

It is a good plan to steam roots, oil meal and bran, and many mix them up with chopped hay, straw, etc. You may mix half corn stalks and half poor hay, all chopped up, and cooking will double its value, and if a little grain or meal, bran or middlings, are added, say at the rate of half a bushel to one hundred pounds of fodder, the value will be still farther increased. The quantity of water to be used will depend on the size of the vat or boiler. To cook fodder enough for fifty cows for three days would require two hundred gallons. It is best to steam enough for two or three days at a time. If kept covered up in the boiler or vat, it will keep warm and moist. If allowed to stand too long fermentation takes place.

Those who have had the most experience in steaming and cooking food claim that it adds fully one-third to the value of the poorer qualities of fodder, but we do not believe it is wise to feed wholly on this prepared food, and if it is adhered to long, the stock will become unhealthy. We have seen herds of cattle where too constant feeding on steamed food, with too small an allowance of long hay, had affected the stock very unfavorably. William Birnie, Esq., of Springfield, and Bela J. Stone, Esq., of Westboro', have followed the plan of steaming some years, and like it well enough to continue it. Another farmer who has fed too exclusively on steamed food, now wants to sell out his whole herd.—[ED.

Stock Department.

IMPORTED BREEDING CATTLE.

The Treasury Department has issued, in circular form, the following extract from article 383 of the Regulations of the Department for the information of persons intending to import, for breeding purposes, animals from 'beyond the seas": "To admit to free entry 'animals from beyond the seas,' when imported for breeding purposes, the owner therefore will be required to produce to the Collector at the port of importation a certificate from the United States Consul at the port of shipment, showing that the animals are, to the best of his information and belief, intended for such purpose, and also a statement of the owner under oath that the animals were purchased abroad and imported into the United States especially for breeding purposes. The Collector must also be satisfied that the animals are of superior stock, adapted to improving the breed in the United States." Customs officers are required to rigidly observe the provisions of said article; and should the certificate mentioned therein not be presented on the entry of the animals at the Custom House, it will be necessary for the importer to give a bond with satisfactory sureties in a penal sum of not less than twice the amount of estimated duties, conditioned for the production of such certificate within a specified time. To avoid this inconvenience and the attendant delay and expense it is respectfully suggested that importers of such animals obtain, prior to importation, the requisite Consular certificate for production at the time of entry. The term "beyond the seas," as used in the Regulations, and in the law on which they are based, embraces all territory beyond the limits of the United States.

☞ Norwegian cows eat the heads of fishes and make this part of their winter diet. This item is of practical value only as showing how great is the power of the cow to adapt itself to varying climates. In this respect the cow is only exceeded by man.

Fish Culture.

TROUT RAISING.

We notice in *Forest and Stream* a communication from one who appears to know something about trout raising, in favor of feeding the fish on a vegetable diet, and claims that after the fish are educated into eating it, they get fatter than on animal food. "Bread and buckwheat cakes" are mentioned as being the kind of food that have been used with success. We doubt if trout can be successfully raised on such food alone; but doubtless could with the natural supply of insects falling into ponds. Placing a few small sticks at certain points in the pond, on which insects can alight, or allow the grass to grow from the sides of the pond into the water for the same purpose, might render any additional food besides granivorous unnecessary. Trout also eat fresh soil if allowed to do so. In our own little fish pond where there are no trout, the water is allowed to pass over the wall (brick) about two inches so that the fish can get at the earth; we next allow the grass to grow round the edge of the pond into the water. This allows the fish shade, adds to the purity of the water, *and a spear of tender herbage* when their taste runs that way. We have many a time seen grass sticking out from the mouth of a gold fish!"

Do fish feel?—Asking the question, Do fish have the sense of feeling to the extent we call pain, our experience is that they do not have this exalted condition of this sense, Dr. E. Sterling, says, "I will give you one example of many that have come under my notice. Fishing with some other boys, one Saturday afternoon, with 'bob and sinker' for 'pumpkin seed' and 'straw-bass,' I happened to be behind on the score, having learned positively that the eye of the fish was his best bait. I took a straw bass, ran the hook through his large eye and extracted it. And the next instant the fish was back in the water, but in less time than it has taken to write this article he was on my hook again, and safe on the string, minus one eye."

☞ The Michigan fish-hatching establishment has just received in good condition 800,000 California salmon eggs from the Pacific coast.

Horticulture.

"EQUALIZING THE APPLE CROP."

Orchardists for a long series of years have had cause to deplore the apparent scarcity of many leading varieties of apples in some seasons, and a too bountiful crop in others. As this usually happens in alternate years, that is, the one extreme following the other in regular succession, provided no annual vicissitude of temperature interferes, it has become a study of no small importance, and one which, when solved, will prove an incalculable blessing to those who have a large capital invested in their business.

The idea that grafts taken from fruiting trees during the bearing season will exert a favorable effect upon young trees is certainly opposed to good sense, no reasonable fruit grower adopting it as a fundamental principle. The most plausible theory, and the only one in fact that has a practical bearing upon the subject, is the thinning out of the young fruit, and I take this opportunity once more to impress upon the minds of orchardists, both professional and amateurs, the dire necessity that exists for having this properly attended to every season, and especially when the trees are overloaded. There can be no doubt that the main governing cause in producing this alternate extremes is the overburdened condition of the tree during the fruitful year, causing it to remain inactive for a whole season. But just here comes in a curious fact.

The theory in regard to the production of blossom buds is that it is caused chiefly by an arrest of vegetation. Various agencies may effect this, but the prime moving one is a lack of vitality. The moment a tree becomes diseased or stunted, in nine cases out of ten it covers itself with flowers or fruit of some kind. Now, after an unusually heavy crop of fruit we should very naturally reason that the tree had parted with a considerable amount of its vitality in perfecting its fruit, and in consequence in the succeeding year we would find another fine show of blossoms at least; but this is not the case as a general rule, for in the alternate year the tree will usually be almost flowerless.

It has been surmised, and on good grounds, too, that as the finer breeds of animals are brought up to a certain high standard of excellence by the most careful system of reproduction, so too the varieties of fruit might be made to assume desired forms, embracing qualities that we wish them to possess, and regulating this very question of equalization with others of similar importance. When we see the florist performing his work successfully we have excellent reason for believing that the pomologist may at no distant day accomplish the same in his department, all that is needed being a knowledge of plant life and the system of vegetable production.—*Josiah Hoopes in N. Y. Tribune.*

The Poultry Interest.

PACKING POULTRY FOR MARKET.

D. W. Lewis & Co., of New York, writes as follows, in reference to the manner of packing dressed poultry for that market:—Keep from feeding food twenty-four hours before killing—food in the crop sours and injures the appearance. Legs and heads should be left on, and the poultry not drawn. Hang all poultry by the legs twenty-four hours before packing, where it will not freeze. (This prevents its sweating and looking slippery.) Use dry straw, clean and free from dust; put a layer of straw on the bottom of the package, then alternate layers of straw and poultry, and pack snugly, backs up, and avoid breaking the skin or bones. In very cold weather line the boxes with heavy hardware paper, or wrap each bird in it, which precludes the use of straw. Different sorts of poultry should not be mixed in the same package. Put turkeys are the specials for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's; geese for Christmas.

☞ This month is the season when colds, roup, catarrh, swelled head, and all other phases of "influenza" occur among poultry. This trouble is caused largely by compelling the fowls to roost in chilly draughts of frigid air, or by leaving them to wander about in the frost and wet in the daytime for lack of shelter. If this annoying "roup" as it is usually denominated, now gets among your flocks it is difficult to cure the illness, and if not remedied at once it will spread like fire in a dry prairie—remember. It is much easier to prevent or avoid this nuisance than it is to cure it, and only by watchfulness can it be kept at bay if you are keeping numbers of fowls in close quarters under one roof.

With appropriate care and clean, light, dry houses, daily ventilated, no great amount of such fowl sickness will appear upon your premises. But as we have often repeated in these columns if you would keep the birds free from roup, they must be cared for upon system, and never be neglected.—*Poultry World.*

CHEAP POULTRY YARD.—Set posts firmly in the ground, six feet high and eight feet apart. Take No. 9 wire and stretch it from post to post outside, fastening with staples made of wire driven into posts. Take common laths and weave in, leaving three inches space between sides of each. This makes the fence four feet high. Then take other laths, picket one end, chamfer the other like a chisel blade and interweave among the tops wires; then shove the chamfered edge down beside the top of the bottom lath, lapping under wire two inches. This makes a cheap, durable and pretty fence, seven feet and ten inches high, and is fowl tight. The wires should be left somewhat slack, as interweaving the laths will make it up.—*Poultry World.*

SCALY LEG IN FOWLS.—A writer in the *Country Gentleman* says: In reply to "A Sufferer," I will say that scaly leg is caused by a parasitic insect, which may be seen with the aid of a microscope, in a little furrow under the scales. It is contagious. To cure it, clean up the legs of the fowls by washing with carbolic soap. An ointment made of coal tar and lard, or sulphur and lard, or the various preparations of carbolic acid, applied two or three times, will usually effect a cure. Give the fowls sulphur once a week, mixed with their food, and do not neglect to thoroughly clean the whole hennery, by washing with lime water or some disinfectant. The disease is not hereditary, but scaly legged fowls should not be used for setting.

SURE CURE FOR GAPES.—An experienced chicken raiser says as soon as a manifestation of gapes in his fowls appears, he confines his chickens in a box, one at a time, sufficiently large to contain the bird, and places a coarse cotton or linen cloth over the top. Upon this he places air slacked lime, and taps the cloth sufficiently to cause the lime to fall through. This lime dust the fowl inhales and is made to sneeze, and in a short time the cause of the gapes is thrown out in the form of a slimy mass of worms that has accumulated in the windpipe and smaller air vessels. This remedy he considers superior to any he has ever tried, and he seldom fails to effect a perfect cure.—*Vermont Union.*

A BATCH OF WEATHER SIGNS.

In response to a circular sent to all the station observers by the chief signal officer asking for the signs preceding storms, Signal Service Observer Dumont has recently sent to Washington a report for his locality, based upon his own observations, and the weather notes which Maj. Ingersoll has kept for several years, and Foreman Allin's record. After detailing the action of the instruments before storms, the report gives the weather signs by which the approach of a storm is heralded, and these, by the way, are considered more reliable than the instrumental signs. Old weather prophets will be interested in comparing these rules with the maxims which they have drawn from their own observations. We append the signs:

1—As a rule, if the wind touches northeast or east for two or three days, it is a sure indication of rain.

2—Dense smoke and haze in early morning portend falling weather.

3—Summer showers of light character often follow two or three days of smoke or haze.

4—Fog, frost and dew precede rain twenty-four to forty-eight hours, except fog at close of storm.

5—Wind veering from north or west to south and southeast precedes falling weather.

6—Halos, lunar and solar, also fairly defined and brilliant auroras, precede rain twenty-four to sixty hours.

7—Barometer rising or falling considerably away from its mean foreboades falling weather, subject to modifying influences of the neighboring ranges of mountains and hills.

8—Precipitation generally follows a rapid influx or reflux of atmosphere.

9—If wind is in southwest and rain sets in, the rain is of short duration and light yield.

10—Banks of watery clouds or heavy haze on south and southeastern horizon indicate rain.

11—An area of low barometer at or near Fort Monroe and running up the coast surely reaches here as a northeaster.

☞ Indiana farmers have just held a meeting at Indianapolis for the purpose of organising a State association, with the object of influencing legislation in favor of good roads.

Correspondence.

THE NORTHERN SPY.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

You made an allusion, a week ago, to the Northern Spy apple. I often hear it spoken of as one of the apples that we farmers should raise, and a great many, especially young farmers, are not very well posted about the different varieties of apples, and they often go blindly to work in setting an orchard. Now, with regard to the Northern Spy, I would say a word, because I fear that some will be deceived by it. If a friend should give them the apple, they would say, "Yes, I will certainly have some of those trees, or, I will have some of those grafts if I can get them." I have spread round too many of them, I am afraid. Some of my neighbors got a tree or two, and they would almost guard them day and night, they were so choice. The tree grows thriftily, evenly, makes a pretty head, grows very thick and bushy. I got a few of the grafts. I had a tree that had never developed its fruit, and I thought if I could get some of these grafts to put into it I should get some fruit. I did so, and at the proper time after grafting, I got the fruit, splendid fruit; but it had that defect which the *Ploughman* tells us it has—the apples would rot on the tree. I had apples of that kind which grew until they measured, I think, from ten to twelve inches, and then prematurely ripened on the tree and fell off. But I would give them to my neighbors to taste of, and they would all say, "that is a splendid apple." The tree that I took these grafts from had been standing twelve or fifteen years, and my neighbor, who owned it had got vexed with it, and wanted to cut it down. "No," I said, 'bear with it," and he did. He has raised some of the fruit, but there is the same difficulty about it. I have given away a good many grafts of the kind, but I think the tree is an unsafe one to raise, though there is no better apple grown, if you can get it; but there is the difficulty. It has a tender skin, will rot on the tree, and is not what we want. The New York Northern Spy is a different apple. It seems to be born in a different climate, and keeps better. One of my neighb

umns were needed. According to the State's pamphlet, "Taxation by the local assessors," 1874, page 59, money for highways and town ways "shall be assessed upon the polls and estates of the inhabitants as other town charges are assessed." This law does not explicitly direct assessors to combine the highway tax with their other assessments, the simplest way to raise it; and some cling to the old fashion of assessing a separate road tax, the law for which, "in labor and materials," was abolished in 1871. The wording of the law for the poll tax adds to the lack of exactness in the law for the road tax. "The whole poll tax assessed in one year upon an individual for town, county and State purposes, *except highway taxes separately assessed*, shall not exceed two dollars." Pamphlet, page 75. Here, with a clearly stated, definite law, is combined an exception which ought to have been cancelled by the act of 1871, chapter 298, which abolished the whole spirit of the law for separate road taxes. Even lawyers differ somewhat still, regarding the legality of a separate road tax; but the weight of opinion seems largely against it. The digests give no judgment regarding a special road tax; but in Lincoln, Mass., a case is awaiting decision before the supreme court, which will distinctly answer West Middlesex.

Exempted from taxation is "Sixth, the household furniture of every person, not exceeding one thousand dollars in value." Pamphlet page 5. The statute does not specify what shall or shall not be accounted furniture; but common dictionaries, common usage, common sense, do define furniture, beyond a reasonable doubt, to include things ornamental as well as practically useful in a house. An assessor, moreover, would need to be an expert in musical judgment to determine the relative values of new and old pianos and organs. Manufacturers and agents recommend such instruments as furniture in selling them; searching houses for them would savor of impertinent inquisition; the assessors of Boston regard them and treat them as furniture. The courts have not been pestered with cases under the tax laws, involving this whimsical discrimination.

The third special tax will probably have to be endured in small towns as long as the schools are managed on the old district system; yet why, even in district towns, may not all the taxes be merged, so that only one exact poll tax and a single tax on each estate need be assessed? Surely the assessors can turn over to each district, or pay out for it, its proper share of the whole tax, having increased the levy according to the vote of each district. Cannot some legislator simplify the statement of these common tax laws so that no citizen of average intelligence need make a mistake in understanding them?

J. N.

New Salem, Franklin Co.

The Centennial.

CENTENNIAL NOTES.

☞ An original portrait of Washington may be seen at the Centennial rooms, 25 Pemberton Square. It was taken by Savage, the artist, for his own use, to whom Washington sat in Philadelphia, in 1789. It was presented by Gov. Gore, which he loaned to Harvard College, which now loaned it to Harvard Hall. President Quincy was of the opinion that the likeness in Savage's picture was the most correct of any picture extant.

☞ The Maine central commission held a meeting at the Augusta House, Augusta, Dec. 14. The secretary, Judge Knight, made a most encouraging report of the interests of the business men of Maine in the exposition. All the natural and industrial resources of the State will be represented at Philadelphia. The display of granite will be very extensive, one firm having promised to send 200,000 worth. The manufactures of cotton and woolen fabrics will be in every variety of goods. The commissioners are confident that in her material interests Maine will be fully represented.

CENTENNIAL EXPENSES.—The subscriptions of the American people to the Centennial fund as paid in thus far, have amounted to $1,852,749 50. The "expenses" of the Centennial Commission, at home and abroad, have been $1,086,047 87, leaving a balance in the Centennial Board of Finance, (not including $31,000 for advertising and printing,) have been $91,496 07. Perhaps the public will be informed how the private subscriptions of their contributions has been expended, and how much each Commission has cost.

THE MARINE AT THE CENTENNIAL.—Citizens interested in marine matters are determined to have their interests represented in the coming Centennial exhibition at Philadelphia by displaying models of all sorts of craft with which the sturdy sailors of our coast have been identified since the early infancy of the colonies. The Centennial commission for this State, a short time since, called to its aid the services of Captain H. W. Lunt, a gentleman well known in yachting circles, and Captain Lunt, in behalf of the Fairhaven Commission, has issued a circular calling upon every person interested in the project to aid him in his work. It is proposed to show, by models, the entire construction of our vessels, from their general appearance by heliotypes, photographs and illustrations, and to exhibit rigged models of all classes of vessels. It is intended to make the collection as complete as possible, and to have every specimen of a craft from a full rigged ship to a wherry.

A CALIFORNIA TREE FOR THE CENTENNIAL.—Some time ago we mentioned the fact that Mr. Vetter was preparing a specimen of one of the Tulare County big trees to exhibit at the Centennial next year. The piece of timber selected will be sixteen feet long, and twenty-one feet in diameter at one end and fifteen feet at the other. The heart of this will be taken out, leaving only about one foot of the body of the tree attached to the stool or bark. This outside shell will then be divided into eight sections, each of which will weigh 4,000 pounds without the bars. It is necessary to divide it into this number of parts in order to allow it to pass through the numerous tunnels between here and Philadelphia. The eight parts will weigh about thirty thousand pounds, and will require two cars for their transportation. The solid foot of this tree weighs seventy-two pounds, being ten pounds heavier than so much water. This timber was taken out of the Gen. Lee, a tree 275 feet high, and which, had it been allowed to remain longer, would have produced a sufficient quantity to have built a very respectable young town or a large ship. It contained more than two hundred thousand feet of lumber, probably, and more than two hundred cords of wood. The Gen. Grant, a much larger tree than the Gen. Lee, and the largest in the world, growing in the same grove, is left standing, probably for the benefit of the future.—(*Cal.*) *Delta.*

THE CENTENNIAL EXCURSION.

INSPECTION OF THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS BY THE GOVERNMENTAL PARTY—PROGRESS OF THE WORK—BANQUET AT HORTICULTURAL HALL—SPEECHES BY DISTINGUISHED OFFICIALS.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 18.—This morning at 9:30 the Centennial congressional delegation, the Presidential party and the justices of the Supreme Court and other distinguished guests were driven to the Centennial grounds and inspected the various buildings. All the strangers expressed the greatest surprise at the nearness of the work to completion. This afternoon the party partook of a banquet in Horticultural Hall. The Hon. John C. Bullit presided, and made a general statement concerning the progress of the centennial enterprise. He said the Centennial buildings would cost $6,724,859, and what was needed to complete the work was $1,537,140. The speaker urged upon the representatives of the government to consider the importance of the exhibition and to afford the means necessary to finish the work. Whatever prestige may result from its success will enure to the credit of the whole country. To the toast, "The President of the United States," President Grant simply bowed, and declined to make a speech. Chief Justice Waite responded to the toast, "The Supreme Court of the United States." "The Senate of the United States" was responded to by Senator Morton, who said that Philadelphia and Pennsylvania have done all that they could, and he believed that the other States of the country would come forward. If the exposition was carried out, and he had no doubt that it would be, the generations yet to come would cherish our memories. Hon. John Hancock of Texas responded to the toast, "The House of Representatives." The difference of opinion between the two sections had passed away in the great desire to help the patriotic movement which would take place next year. He expressed astonishment at the great progress made on the buildings. Governor Bedle of New Jersey responded to the toast, "The Governors of the several States." He said the government did right in leaving the people to do the work at first, but that now it was time for Congress to take a part in the great exposition. "Commerce" was responded to by Hon. A. G. Blaine, who made a witty speech, closing with complimentary allusions to Pennsylvania and what she had done in the century now drawing to an end. "Music" was responded to by Hon George Bancroft in an appropriate address. John Welsh, esq., and ex-Governor Hawley then made addresses bearing on the Centennial, after which the banquet closed. After 8 o'clock Horticultural Hall was illuminated with reflectors, gas not yet having been introduced. A majority of the gentlemen from Washington returned on the 6 o'clock train. General Grant and other dignitaries remained over to attend a reception given by the Saturday night club.

☞ A committee of the New England Poultry Club visited Springfield, Dec. 14, and perfected arrangements for a poultry show to be held in that city January 4th, 5th and 6th, under the auspices of the Rod and Gun Club of Springfield, in connection with the New England Poultry Club of this city and the Connecticut State Poultry Society of Hartford.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES—THE LIST IN FULL —AN ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THE 3rd DAY OF JANUARY NEXT.

There was a larger attendance than was expected in view of the Christmas holiday adjournment fixed for today, and of the fact that no business was to be done, except to hear the announcements from the speaker.

THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

The Journal of Friday last having been read and some executive communications having been laid before the house, the speaker announced the standing committees of the house as follows:—

Committee on Elections—Messrs. Harris of Virginia, Thompson of Massachusetts, Blackburn of Kentucky, Beebe of New York, House of Tennessee, Bellofi of Missouri, Poppleton of Ohio, Hoar of Massachusetts, Wells of Mississippi, Baker of Indiana, Brown of Kansas.

On Ways and Means—Messrs. Munroe of Illinois, Wood of New York, Hancock of Texas, Thomas of Maryland, Hill of Georgia, Chapin of Massachusetts, Tucker of Virginia, Blaine of Maine, Kelley of Pennsylvania, Garfield of Ohio, Burchard of Illinois.

On Appropriations—Messrs. Randall of Pennsylvania, Holman of Indiana, Wells of Missouri, Atkins of Tennessee, Hamilton of New Jersey, Bouck of Oregon, Singleton of Mississippi, Hooper of New York, Hale of Maine, Foster of Ohio, Waldron of Michigan, Conger of Michigan.

On Banking and Currency—Messrs. Cox of New York, Payne of Ohio, Goode of Virginia, Gibson of Louisiana, Raymond of Indiana, Burchard of Wisconsin, Wike of Illinois, Townsend of Pennsylvania, Kasson of Iowa, Eames of Rhode Island, Hubbell of Michigan.

On the Pacific Railroad—Messrs. Lamar of Mississippi, Atkins of Tennessee, Luttrell of California, Walker of Virginia, Lynde of Wisconsin, Throckmorton of Texas, Thomas of Indiana, Phillips of Missouri, Garfield of Ohio, Kasson of Iowa, Platt of New York, O'Neill of Pennsylvania, Blair of New Hampshire.

On the Judiciary—Messrs. Knott of Kentucky, Hunton of Virginia, Ashe of North Carolina, Lynde of Wisconsin, Lord of New York, Hurd of Ohio, Caulfield of Illinois, McCrary of Iowa, Lawrence of Ohio, Frye of Maine, Stankweather of Connecticut.

On Public Lands—Messrs. Sayler of Ohio, Goodnow of Kansas, Fuller of Indiana, McFarland of Tennessee, Waring of Ohio, Gause of Arkansas, Lane of Oregon, Hawthorne of New York, McDill of Iowa, Morey of Louisiana, Crosse of Nebraska.

On Foreign Affairs—Messrs. Swann of Maryland, Faulkner of West Virginia, Banks of Mississippi, Sayler of Ohio, Sargent of California, Negley of New York, Hamilton of Indiana, Springer of Illinois, Forney of Alabama, Monroe of Ohio, C. G. Williams of Wisconsin, Packer of Pennsylvania.

On War Claims—Messrs. Kees of Illinois, Mullin of Kentucky, Warren of Massachusetts, Caldwell of Virginia, Enos of Louisiana, Neer of Indiana, Caldwell of Alabama, Conger of Michigan, Dunnell of Minnesota, Rice of Massachusetts, Wilson of Iowa, Haskins of New York.

On Naval Affairs—Messrs. Whitthorne of Tennessee, Lewis of Alabama, Mills of Texas, Jones of New Hampshire, Willis of New York, Williams of Delaware, Hamilton of Indiana, Burleigh of Maine, Harris of Missouri, Hayes of Alabama, Danforth of Ohio.

On Revision of Laws—Messrs. Durham of Kentucky, Southard of Ohio, Bell of New Hampshire, Melcher of New York, Bright of New Jersey, Dibrell of Tennessee, Wilson of Indiana, Crapo of Massachusetts, Dunnon of Vermont, Oliver of Iowa, Robinson of Ohio.

On Education and Labor—Messrs. Walker of Virginia, Lamar of Mississippi, Faulkner of West Virginia, Cutler of Pennsylvania, Clark of Missouri, Springer of Illinois, Hoar of Massachusetts, Magoon of Wisconsin, White of Kentucky, Mason of Illinois.

On Military Affairs—Messrs. Banning of Ohio, Glover of Missouri, A. S. Williams of Michigan, Terry of Virginia, Cook of Georgia, John Reilly of Pennsylvania, Hardenburg of New Jersey, Macdougall of New York, Turbrington of Tennessee, Herriott of Illinois, Strait of Minnesota.

On Commerce—Messrs. Hereford of West Virginia, Ward of New York, Durand of Michigan, Reagan of Texas, Piper of California, Kehr of Missouri, Pierce of Massachusetts, Felton of Georgia, Hunter of Indiana, Rose of Pennsylvania, Dunnell of Minnesota.

On Post-Offices and Post Roads—Messrs. Clark of Missouri, Waddell of North Carolina, Luttrell of California, Armstrong of Kentucky, Baker of New York, McMahon of Ohio, Swarns of Arkansas, Cannon of Illinois, Miner of New York, Stowell of Virginia, Wallace of Rhode Island.

On Claims—Messrs. Bright of Tennessee, Neal of Ohio, Brown of Kentucky, Robbins of North Carolina, Darlock of Maryland, Cochrane of Pennsylvania, Phillips of Missouri, Pratt of Iowa, Bass of New York, Bradley of Michigan, Cason of Indiana.

On District of Columbia—Messrs. Boutwell of Massachusetts, Neal of Ohio, Phelps of Connecticut, Cate of Wisconsin, Hartridge of Georgia, Henkle of Maryland, Stevenson of Illinois, McCrary of Iowa, Wallace of Mississippi, Henderson of Vermont, Phillips of Kansas.

On Public Buildings and Grounds—Messrs. Holman of Indiana, Wells of Missouri, Harrison of Illinois, Cook of Georgia, Hewitt of New York, Wann of Maryland, Young of Tennessee, Bagley of Williams of Michigan, Woodworth of Ohio, Plaisted of Maine, Kimball of Wisconsin.

On Patents—Messrs. Vance of North Carolina, John H. Bagley, jr., of New York, Douglas of Virginia, Landers of Connecticut, Hartzell of Illinois, Hunt of Kentucky, Bingham of Mississippi, Speer of Michigan, Dobbins of New Jersey, Sampson of Iowa, Hoge of South Carolina.

On Invalid Pensions—Messrs. Jenks of Pennsylvania, Bagley of Illinois, Wilson of West Virginia, Hale of New York, Barnett of Alabama, Rice of Ohio, Yates of North Carolina, Rusk of Wisconsin, Sunnickson of New Jersey, Furman of Florida, Ramey of South Carolina.

On Revolutionary Pensions—Messrs. Hunton of Virginia, Bland of Missouri, Phelps of Connecticut, Clarke of Kentucky, Hurd of Ohio, Davis of North Carolina, Schumaker of New York, Downham of New Jersey, Henderson of Illinois, Williams of New York.

On Indian Affairs—Messrs. Scales of North Carolina, Whitthorne of Kentucky, Sparks of Illinois, Hooker of Mississippi, Morgan of Missouri, Lane of Oregon, Seelye of Massachusetts, Page of California, Van Voorhes of Ohio, Tufts of Iowa.

On Weights and Measures—Messrs. Stephens of Georgia, O'Brien of Maryland, Porter of Michigan, Sayler of Ohio, Parsons of Kentucky, Levy of Louisiana, Mason of Pennsylvania, Willard of Michigan, G. W. Williams of North Carolina, Beebee of New York, Seelye of Massachusetts.

On Territories—Messrs. Archibald of Ohio, Caldwell of Tennessee, Metcher of Pennsylvania, Franklin of Missouri, Meade of New York, Culberson of Texas, Hungerford of Illinois, Fort of Illinois, Mackey of South Carolina, Freeman of Pennsylvania, Bagley of New York, Patterson of Colorado.

On Expenditures in the Treasury Department—Messrs. Ely of New York, Bright of Tennessee, Hargrett of Illinois, H. S. Williams of Michigan, Pridmore of Maine.

On Accounts—Messrs. Caldwell of Alabama, Harris of Georgia, Mann of Pennsylvania, Davis of North Carolina, Rea of Missouri, Goodin of Kansas, Anderson of Illinois, Dwight of Pennsylvania, Rusk of Wisconsin, Van Vorhes of Ohio, Steele of South Carolina.

On Mines and Mining—Messrs. Bland of Missouri, Turney of Pennsylvania, Durham of Kentucky, Potter of Wisconsin, Lord of New York, Simeon of Louisiana, Campbell of Illinois, Evans of Indiana, Woodburn of Nevada, Cassat of Wisconsin.

On Irrigation of the Arid Lands—Messrs. Buckner of Missouri, Parsons of Arkansas, Powell of Pennsylvania, Candler of Georgia, Levy of Louisiana, Wright of Iowa, Ketcham of Pennsylvania, Joyce of Vermont, Cannon of Illinois, Loubaze of New York.

On Private Expenditures—Messrs. Milliken of Kentucky, Hatcher of Missouri, Perry of Virginia, Cowan of Ohio, Bradley of Tennessee, James R. Reilly of Pennsylvania, Campbell of Illinois, Whitley of Illinois, Norton of New York, Wood of Pennsylvania, Battelon of Alabama.

On Railways and Canals—Messrs. Jones of Kentucky, Noonee of Illinois, Savage of Ohio, Meade of New York, Schuyler Crosse, Mackey of Pennsylvania, Lamerts of Indiana, Davis of New York, Hubbard of Connecticut, Frost of Massachusetts, Dunson of Vermont, Oliver of Iowa, Robinson of Ohio.

On Mississippi Levees—Messrs. Ellis of Louisiana, Harris of Missouri, Wismire of Arkansas, Money of Mississippi, Roberts of Maryland, Young of Tennessee, Sneakley of Pennsylvania, Dunnell of Minnesota, Waring of Illinois, Morey of Louisiana, Wallace of Pennsylvania.

On Return to the Civil Service—Messrs. Whitthorne of Tennessee, Beebe of New York, Throckmorton of Texas, Payne of Ohio, Collins of Pennsylvania, Bellofi of Missouri, Crosse of Nebraska, Hurlbut of Illinois, Harris of Massachusetts, Foster of Ohio, Leavenworth of New York.

On Mississippi Jetties—Messrs. Rice of Illinois, Dibrell of Tennessee, Ross of New Jersey, Williams of Alabama, Hopkins of Pennsylvania, Money of Mississippi, Burnham of Wisconsin, Farwell of Illinois, Baliou of Rhode Island, Williams of New York, Herman of North Carolina.

On Militia—Messrs. Cook of Ohio, Hereford of West Virginia, Bell of New Hampshire, Scales of North Carolina, Hamilton of Georgia, Walsh of Maryland, Tarbox of Massachusetts, Ross of Pennsylvania, Darrall of Louisiana, Crosse of Nebraska, Hall of Missouri.

On Expenditures on Public Buildings—Messrs. Metcalf of New York, Wilson of West Virginia, Bagley of Illinois, Pratt of Louisiana, Townsend of New York.

On Expenditures in the Navy Department—Messrs. Beebe of New York, Mills of Texas, Sneakley of Pennsylvania, Burleigh of Maine, Baker of New York.

On Expenditures in the State Department—Messrs. Sortoger of Illinois, Thompson of Massachusetts, Caldwell of Tennessee, Wallace of Pennsylvania, Leavenworth of New York.

On Expenditures in the War Department—Messrs. Clymer of Pennsylvania, Robbins of North Carolina, Blackburn of Kentucky, Bass of New York, Danford of Ohio.

On Expenditures in the Post-Office Department—Messrs. Stone of Missouri, Reagan of Texas, Walker of New York, Sloan of Virginia, Adams of New York.

On Expenditures in the Department of Justice—Messrs. Caulfield of Illinois, Chandler of Georgia, House of Tennessee, Starkweather of Connecticut, Joyce of Vermont.

On Mileage—Messrs. Egbert of Pennsylvania, Bradford of Alabama, Odell of New York, Caswell of Wisconsin, Wood of Florida.

On Printing—Messrs Vance of Ohio, Singleton of Mississippi and Ballou of Rhode Island.

On Rules—Ike Sanford, Massts. Randall of Pennsylvania, Cox of New York, Blaine of Maine and Banks of Massachusetts.

On Enrolled Bills—Messrs. Harris of Georgia, Hamilton of Indiana, Darrall of Louisiana.

On the Library—Messrs. Clymer of Pennsylvania, Waddell of North Carolina, Munroe of Ohio.

Select Committee on the Centennial Celebration—Messrs. Hoskins of Pennsylvania, Hancock of Texas, Barnum of Connecticut, Banks of Massachusetts, Harrison of Illinois, O'Brien of Maryland, A. S. Williams of Michigan, Hamilton of Indiana, Beebe of New Jersey, Kelley of Pennsylvania, Blaine of Maine, Foster of Ohio, Baker of New York.

Immediately after the announcement of the committees the house adjourned until Wednesday, the 5th of January.

CATTLE NOTES.

SALE OF FEARNAUGHT STOCK.—Messrs. Wright & Norcross, have sold and shipped to a party at Coldwater, Mich., the following: Carlotta, chestnut mare, 5 years, by Fearnaught, jr., $600; Fearless, bay mare, 5 years, by Old Fearnaught, $600; chestnut filly, 2 years, by Carenaught, dam by Ray's Cruiser, $600; chestnut, 3 years, by Fearnaught, jr., dam by Old Tarr River, $400. In spite of "hard times," well bred trotters will sell at good prices.

☞ Augustus Whitman of North Leominster, has sold to Ayres & McClintock, of Millersburg, Ky., the bull Oxford Beau, 2d, with thirty-three females, for $22,000; and to Talcott & Son, of Rome, N. Y., the bull 13th Duke of Airdrie, for $1500.

☞ Loans have been made by the National Grange to State Granges in the following sums: Arkansas, $1417 50; Colorado, $72 50; Georgia, $1710; Illinois, $3832 50; Iowa, $5007 50; Kansas, $387 50; Missouri, $5028 50; North Carolina, $1210 50; South Carolina, $822 50; Wisconsin, $1270 50. Total, $23,860. The Executive Committee also report that in the exercise of discretionary powers, they have authorized the following donations, the amounts being placed at the disposal of Masters of the respective State Granges: Tennessee, $100; Missouri, $3000; Arkansas, $500; Colorado, $500; Iowa, $1068 47.

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, DEC. 25, 1875.

Holiday Week.—This is Holiday week, and although the weather has shown itself at both extremes the streets never were never more crowded nor the sight seers more eager. Purchasers have not been so generally lavish with funds as in in former years, but that was not to be expected. Yet trade is extremely lively and in many branches as good for the season as it ever was. It is good to witness these steady-going throngs of humanity. They move up and down the sidewalks in double currents. The store doors are opening and shutting to receive and discharge them. Male and female clerks and tenders are kept active and busy answering to innumerable calls. The displays of goods in the stores has for weeks been surpassingly fine, but as Christmas drew near it strove to excel even itself. There is a satisfaction in noting the remarkable change which has come over the community within a few years in relation to the keeping of the Holiday season. It is a sure symptom of a higher state of social health and happiness.

CHRISTMAS.

The *Ploughman* greets its readers, patrons and friends this year with a Christmas greeting, coming to them on the great Holiday itself. In town and country, it is becoming a festival more and more cherished as time rolls on. It is the blessed New Year of our Christian era, opening the door to new hopes that spring in all Christian hearts. It is, above all else, the Children's Day, consecrated as it is to the nativity of One who came to bring "peace and good-will to men." Therefore it has long been the custom to give it over mainly to the children's delight. They are loaded with the gifts of affection and every fresh token of love. The day is theirs, for all the claims that others may set up to it in any household. It is their little stockings that ornament the chimney corners, and their shrill and happy voices that echo in the rooms early Christmas morning.

Their elders observe it in the spirit of childhood, too. It is the time for the giving of gifts, which express the heart's sentiments. This exchange of sentiment becomes far more expressive from the fact that one day, like Christmas, is devoted to it. Worldliness dies out for at least one day in the year, and the prevalent feeling is that of kindness and affection. Christmas is the talisman that so transmutes all natures. Let us therefore keep it more sacredly this year than ever. It comes but once a year, and so let us improve every one of its suggestions. That all our friends and readers may find in the dear old Festival the utmost that their hearts desire, is the sincere wish of the *Ploughman*, as they open its pages. The consummation of its wish, indeed, is best expressed in the hearty old phrase—A Merry Christmas!

BOSTON AND NEW YORK.

For some considerable time past there has been a sharp rivalry between the other Atlantic cities and New York, for the enjoyment of the advantage in the rates of freight to the West. Boston, with Baltimore and Philadelphia, has been so sharply dealt with in this matter by New York, that there was a likelihood of her being left out in the cold. New York would be glad to keep all New England dependent on her favors in the way of traffic, but it so happens that Boston has been busy for some time past in attending to her own interests. New York merchants and forwarders have apparently just found out, or at least awakened to the full sense of its meaning. They have been holding meetings and urging upon the trunk line railways to the West, the necessity of putting back New York's former advantage.

The managers of these three great roads met in New York, on Tuesday, and considered the subject all round. They finally agreed to force the Vermont Central and Grand Trunk Railroads to come down on their rates from Boston westward, if the latter would not recede voluntarily. As it proved to be impossible to come to any arrangement, the figures for freight rates from New York over the Erie, Pennsylvania and New York Central Roads are to be put below those which Boston at present enjoys. But it will be only for an experiment, which will prove a losing one. The current rates for Boston can stand until they wear out the patience of this tyranny. Besides, we opine that this whole affair is got up merely to humor the complaints of New York merchants, who are amazingly uneasy to see Boston sending goods West at lower rates than they can, and think it possible for them to make water run up hill. Boston should not hesitate now to push her advantage to the utmost.

MIDDLESEX POULTRY EXHIBITION.

PREMIUMS AWARDED.

LOWELL, Mass., Dec. 22. The following are the awards of premiums at the Middlesex Poultry Exhibition:

B. B. Red Game—1st prize, D. B. Wallace of Lynnfield; chicks, 1st prize, D. B. Wallace.

Claiborne Game—Fowls, 1st prize, D. Wallace; chicks, 1st prize, D. B. Wallace.

Earl of Derby Game—1st prize, D. B. Wallace.

English White Eyes—Fowls, 1st prize, D. B. Wallace.

Georgian White Game—Fowls, 1st prize, D. B. Wallace.

White Pile Game—Fowls, 1st prize, D. B. Wallace; chicks, 1st prize, D. B. Wallace.

Red Pile Game—Chicks, 1st prize, D. B. Wallace.

Spangled Pile Game—1st prize, D. B. Wallace.

Blue-gespangled Pile Game—Fowls, 1st prize, D. B. Wallace.

Yellow Duck Wing Game—Chicks, 1st prize, D. B. Wallace.

Red Dun Game—Chicks, 1st prize, D. B. Wallace.

Tartar Game—Chicks, 1st prize, M. Schwartz.

Clipper Game—Chicks, 1st prize, M. Schwartz.

Heathwood Game—Chicks, 1st prize, J. H. Murphy of Lowell.

Golden Duck Wing—2d prize, A. J. Tuck of Nashua, fowl.

White Leghorn—Chicks, 1st prize, Laurin Martin.

Brown Leghorns—Chicks, 1st prize, L. Martin.

Light Brahma—Chicks, 1st prize, George B. Fletcher of Belmont.

Dark Brahma—Chicks, 1st prize, C. W. Chamberlin of Abington

Bremen Geese—1st prize, C. L. Parker of Winchester.

Gray China Geese—1st prize, C. L. Parker.

Wild Gray Geese—1st prize, C. L. Parker.

White China Geese—1st prize, C. L. Parker.

Bronze Turkeys—1st prize, Levi L. Hall.

Gray Turkeys—1st prize George W. Varnum.

Pearl Guinea Hens—1st prize, William B. Felch of Lowell.

White Guinea Hens—1st prize, W. F. Bacon of Lexington.

Aylesbury Ducks—1st prize, C. L. Parker.

Pekin Ducks—1st prize, L. Mart in of Lowell.

Cayuga ducks—1st prize, C. L. Parker.

Guinea pigs—1st prize, B. F. Stevens.

Squirrels—1st prize, W. A. Safford.

Polish class—White C. Black—Fowl, 1st prize, E. Hartshorn & Son of Boston; chicks, 1st prize, ditto.

Golden Spangled Polish—Fowl, 1st prize, H. L. Clapp of Boston; chicks, J. H. Symonds of Boston.

Silver Spangled—1st prize, Starks Whiton of Hingham; chicks 1st prize, Starks Whiton.

Golden Seabright—Fowl, 1st prize, G. W. F. Seavey of Boston; chicks, 1st prize, ditto.

Silver Seabright—Chicks, 1st prize, George F. Seavey.

White Rose Comb—Chicks, 1st prize, W. G. Gorman of Manchester.

Hamburgs—Penciled—Fowl, 1st prize, N. J. Tuck of Nashua; chicks, 1st prize, ditto.

Silver penciled Hamburg—Fowl, 1st prize, A. J. Tuck.

Silver Spangled Hamburg—Fowl, 1st prize, George F. Seavey; chicks, 1st prize, George F. Seavey.

Golden Spangled Hamburg—Fowl, 1st prize, George F. Seavey; chicks, 1st prize, George F. Seavey.

Crevecœurs—Fowl, 1st prize, J. H. Symonds; chicks, 1st. ditto.

Plymouth Rocks—Fowls, 1st prize, Hiram Randall of Stoughton; chicks, 1st prize, V. C. Gilmac.

Cochin pea comb—Fowls, 1st prize, C. H. Edwards of Melrose; chicks, 1st prize, C. H. Edwards.

Single comb—Fowls, 1st prize, George W. Brunston of Boston.

Buff Cochins—Fowls, 1st prize, George V. Fletche; chicks, 1st prize, Joseph V. Noves.

Black Cochin—Fowls, 1st prize, C. L. Parker; chicks, 1st prize, C. L. Parker.

Red Pyle game—Chicks, 1st prize, Rogers & Hayward; fowls, 1st prize, Rogers & Hayward.

White game bantam—Chicks, 1st prize, Rogers & Hayward.

Spangled game—Chicks, 1st prize, Rogers & Hayward.

Brown and red—1st prize, Rogers & Hayward.

Golden Duckwing bantams—Fowls, 1st prize, Rogers & Hayward.

Black-breasted game, red—Fowls, 1st prize, W. F. Bacon; chicks, 1st prize, W. H. Goodale.

MILK PRODUCERS' MEETING.

On Tuesday, Dec. 14, the Massachusetts and New Hampshire Milk Producers' Association held its annual meeting in Wesleyan Hall, Boston. In the absence of Col. Needham, Judge French, one of the Vice Presidents, called the meeting to order, and made a brief address, after which a committee was appointed by the Chair to nominate officers for the year ensuing, which reported as follows:

President, H. F. French, Concord, Mass.; Vice-Presidents, B. F. Hutchinson, Milford, N. H., and Hammon Reed, Lexington, Mass.; Secretary, D. Round of Still River; Treasurer, C. H. Haskell, Still River. *Directors:* N. H. Clark, Atkinson Depot, N. H., C. A. Nason, Hampton Falls, N. H., Hy. Gray, Wilton, N. H., B. F. Hutchinson, Milford, N. H., E. Breed, North Weare, N. H., B. A. Nourse, Westboro, Joseph Derby, Concord, G. W. Baker, Lincoln, G. W. Sanderson, Littleton, G. H. Grout, Leominster, F. Fisher, Southboro', Jonas B. Sibley, Grafton, E. W. Giles, Norfolk, Solon Carter, Leominster, and A. H. Holland, Barre.

The reporter of the *Cultivator* says the meeting was full of life and hope for the future, in view of the great good that has thus far been accomplished since its organization, really one of the most important industrial organizations both for producers and consumers in New England.

President French is a milk producer, and is the right man in the right place, and will more than ever make his potent influence felt.

President Needham sent the following letter, addressed to and read by Treasurer Reed:

BOSTON, Dec. 11, 1875.

My Dear Sir: Until to-day I had hoped to be present at the meeting on Tuesday, the 14th, but I now find myself unable to arrange my official appointments to enable me to do so. I hope you will have a good and successful meeting. I regard the work which the Milk Producers' Association has accomplished as a most important one, not only in securing protection against monopoly, but in securing for the consumer a purer and better quality of milk.

Those people who have opposed the work of the Milk Producers' Association as solely in the interest of the Producer, have taken a very narrow and contracted view of the matter. The work has been most important for the consumer in protecting him against fraudulent and impure compounds. The case of impure milk sold in the city of Boston have been lessening every year of late sought, during which our Association has had an existence. The people of the State of Massachusetts are also indebted to this Association for the valuable protective laws which we now have upon our statute book, and the efficiency by which they have been enforced. I beg to be considered always an acting member of the Association.

Feeling that you need a President who has more time at his command, I ask that I may not be considered a candidate for re-election.

Yours truly, DANIEL NEEDHAM.

HAMMON REED, Esq.

THE MEXICAN TROUBLES.

GALVESTON, Dec. 18.—Advices from Fort Clark, Texas, of yesterday, state that Mexicans crossed the river below San Felipe and stole 800 head of cattle and 50 horses from Strickland & Staughter. Citizens are raising companies and threaten to cross the river. Great excitement prevails. The citizens of San Felipe complain that the military authorities at Fort Clarke for assistance.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 20.—A despatch from Tucson says, on the authority of well informed gentlemen just arrived from Guaymas, that the people of Sonora are in a destitute condition from the interference of the recent revolutionary troubles with the agricultural pursuits. The people are divided in favor of revolution. One gentleman says that 300 disciplined troops could march successfully through the country despite the State troops. The Mexican federal authorities are entirely neutral in the contest now going on, though they encouraged the election last summer. The prefect of Guaymas informed them that if a battle should occur between the State troops and revolutionists, the federal forces would take no part. They describe the country as an easy route for a railway.

☞ Congress adjourned over from Monday to January 5th., for the Holidays. After it reassembles, the Committees being now all appointed and the members well acquainted, public business will no doubt be taken hold of with vigor and resolution.

— Mount Vesuvius is once more in a state of eruption, after a long term of quiet, and it is predicted that a series of convulsions in its interior will now occur.

—The New Hampshire State Grange held its annual convention this week at Manchester.

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.

SHIPWRECKED PASSENGERS SAVED FROM DEATH.

Southampton, Dec. 19.—The steamer Sarlier, which replaced the Mosel, took on board here 60 passengers saved from the Deutschland, who drifted for New York. The authorities of this port took every precaution to insure public safety while the Salier remained at the docks, and the German Consul assured the passengers that the steamer's entire cargo has been most rigidly examined.

EXCITING SCENES IN THE ASSEMBLY.

Paris, Dec. 20.—The Assembly balloted to-day for Senators without result. M. Maquet, a Radical leader, introduced a motion to amnisty pardon granted to the Communists, and requested that it be declared urgent. The tumult which followed was indescribable. The previous question was almost unanimously carried, the Left considering the motion, which cannot pass, an electioneering trick. The affair causes a complete rupture between the Extreme Radicals and the Left.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—(From the *Japan Herald and Gazette*, Nov. 25.)

The political crisis appears to have passed over, the Mikado and his Government having triumphed over those who wished to involve the country in a war or revolution.

A proclamation has been issued intimating that the age of feudalism is past forever. A new code of regulations for military levies has been promulgated. The object of the Government is to render service compulsory upon all classes, and train the entire male population for the use of arms.

George Clark, late Quartermaster of the Pacific Mail steamer Golden Age, was arrested for the robbery of silk from that ship in September last.

A burglary was committed at the United States consulate by natives. Money and other property and consular seals were stolen. The latter were recovered.

ANOTHER VICTORY FOR THE INSURGENTS.

Havana, Dec. 15—*via Key West*, 18. On the 10th inst., the insurgents, commanded by Gonzales, burned the town of Jaxquey, Grande and the estate of Rasarto. On the 12th, they stopped at Palmira, a mile from Valmaseda's camp, a train of seventeen cars loaded with provisions and ammunition, to which they helped themselves and fired the train.

THE RESIGNATION OF VALMASEDA—JOVELLAR APPOINTED HIS SUCCESSOR.

Madrid, Dec. 21.—General Valmaseda's resignation as captain-general of Cuba has been accepted, but it greatly embarrasses the government. General Jovellar, minister of war, has been appointed his successor. Quesada will be reappointed commander-in-chief of the armies of the north, and Cebellas will succeed Jovellar as minister of war.

THE MEXICAN TROUBLES AT SAN DIEGO.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—A dispatch from San Diego says all the Mexicans living on the road between San Diego and Campo are concentrating in Lower California. About one hundred are just below the line. A large number are in Neatt Valley. Further trouble is apprehended. The citizens of Campo are well armed and vigilant.

FOREIGN NOTES.

The Emperor of Brazil will embark on board the steamer Heneliue on the 26th of March for New York, to begin a tour of North America and Europe.

A special dispatch to the London *Times*, dated Penang, 18th, says the British troops from Perak have retired to Blanjs, where they will wait for provisions and reinforcements before attacking Kinta.

R. H. Hurst, liberal, has been elected to Parliament for Horsham, England.

The Pope's assembly has elected M. Wallon, formerly minister of public instruction, and Bishop Dupanloup, senators.

The Prince of Wales has left Madras for Calcutta.

A conference of united Christian representatives at Bosnia has decided to continue the conflict with the Porte until the Turks are all expelled.

ORANGE CULTURE IN FLORIDA. — If oranges are not golden apples, and the groves of Florida a new Hesperides, there are indications that the culture of this fruit is coming to be very profitable. A Palatka paper mentions that Dummett's grove, which only cost $1,000 per annum, yielded last year 600,000 oranges, for which the proprietor received $11,000; and that, with proper care, it would give from $50,000 to $75,000 yearly. H. L. Hart's grove, at Palatka, yields him an income of $15,000 to $20,000 per annum. Arthur Glinn's grove, at Mellonville, of 1,100 trees, pays him $12,000 to $15,000 yearly, and is worth $100,000. Mr. DeBarry, of New York, has a grove near Enterprise

READ AND RUN.

— The presents have been abundant indeed this week, shining out along the streets from the windows in all their glory.

— The Governor of Tennessee announces that the State will not pay the current interest on its bonds. There is talk of "scaling" the State debt, as has been done in other instances.

— The President has commuted the sentence of death to that of imprisonment for life, in the case of the two mutineer murderers of the brig Jefferson Borden.

— A man sixty five years of age was hanged last week in Missouri for the murder of his son-in-law.

— The number of victims to the explosion of dynamite on board the Mosel, in Bremerhaven, foots up two hundred. It is the most barbarous plot designed in many a year.

— The New York merchants are in a state of agitation over the fact that the transportation companies charge them higher rates for freight from the interior and back than they do the merchants of other Atlantic cities.

— Leon Say, the truly eminent Finance Minister of France, has resigned his office.

— The heliotype process of copying is making engravings cheap for all, the copies being accounted the equal of the originals.

— A hungry mob in Montreal has besieged the City Hall and demanded food of the Mayor.

— The rumors current relative to the late David Blaisdell, Treasurer of Dartmouth College, making him out a defaulter, are pronounced by President Smith to be premature.

— Some recent heavy failures in this city have occasioned losses to the banks, and commercial paper is therefore scrutinized by them with much closeness.

— The various Clubs hold their Saturday meetings at Parker's and Young's, at which cheerful companies assemble.

— The recovery of Charles O'Connor, of New York, seems all but miraculous.

— The Rice schoolhouse in this city was nearly burned down, on Monday morning last, which is the coldest one we have yet had.

— Speaker Kerr has announced his Standing Committees for the House, and Congress adjourned from Monday last to the 5th of January, after which business will begin.

— The French steamer L'Amerique, supposed to be lost, was fallen in with on the 3d inst., and her passengers safely transferred and taken to Southampton. This is the first case of ocean rescue during the season.

— France has witnessed of late very heavy snowfalls, as Leverrier, the astronomer, predicted them for December and January. The weather there has been extremely cold.

— The Commissioners of Claims at Washington have so far settled five thousand claims and paid over three million dollars.

— Senator Ferry has by resolution been declared President *pro tem.* of the Senate until January 7th, or until another President is elected.

— The abundant importations of American prints into England are exciting serious apprehensions on the part of British manufacturers of cotton fabrics.

— At last accounts, the Prince of Wales had gone to Calcutta. He seems to be having "high jinks" over there in the East.

— The recent visit of the President, his Cabinet, Members of the Supreme Court, and Members of Congress to Philadelphia, to view the progress of the work connected with the great Exhibition of next year, gave supreme satisfaction to all who engaged in it.

— The condition of the Russian serfs since their emancipation is reported to be both morally and materially much worse than it was before that event.

— The entire church property of New York is set down at from eighty to ninety millions.

— The friends of Gen. Fitz John Porter have no idea that the President will take any action in his case.

— Sunday was the coldest day yet out, and it had things all to itself. Ten below in this climate means business like what they carry on in Lapland.

— A company of brigands, that has infested the mountains of West Virginia for several years, has at length been hunted out and clapped in jail.

— The well known banking firm of Green & Cranston of Providence, suspended payment last Saturday. It grew out of the failure of the Turkish Government to remit in season on contracts with a Rhode Island mechanic corporation.

— The bondholders of the Eastern Railroad held an important meeting relative to the affairs of the road, a few days ago.

— Three piratical vessels have been captured in the Pacific Ocean.

— The Cuban patriots have had another battle and won another victory, besides burning another town.

— The gang of masked burglars, who indulged so freely in midnight predatory picnics last summer along the Hudson, has been betrayed and brought to justice by a skillful detective, who won their confidence and was admitted to membership.

— The weather in New England on Sunday and Monday was attributed to the sweeping over of a cold wave. We are really glad to know what it was.

— A scheme of revolution is on foot in Sonora, with the purpose of getting more territory into the United States.

— That $30,000 California horse race is up for talk again. We put no faith in it.

— D. D. Kelly, of East Boston, launched a fine vessel, the Stonewall Jackson, one day early this week. It is the last one he will build.

— The Canadians are now engaged in an agitation of the license question.

— The native Indian princes are represented to be enraged at the disrespect and insults offered to the Prince of Wales in the course of his journey.

— Ex-Premier Gladstone is said to be engaged in writing hymns.

— The eggs produced in France annually are estimated at $90,000,000 in value.

— The florists have appeared to be the happiest folks, through this Christmas carnival, behind their rows of buds and blossoms, vines, pines, evergreens and lilies.

— Yale has withdrawn from the College Rowing Association, and Harvard is expected to follow suit.

— Ex-Mayor Oakey Hall's stage performance is variously commented on by the New York critics.

— Many changes in business firms are anticipated at the opening of the year.

— The Magazines are all out, full and brilliant, with their welcome to the New Year.

— Sundry devices are on foot for furnishing work and food for the needy during the winter.

— English sole were for sale for the first time in Faneuil Hall market, last week. They are a fish unknown in this country.

— The Massachusetts Teachers' Association is to hold its thirty-first annual meeting in this city on the 28th. inst., when addresses are expected from President Porter, of Yale College, and ex-President Hill, of Harvard College.

— A commercial traveller of twenty-five years standing is lecturing in this city on the art of "drumming" as well as its varied experiences.

— The Emperor of Brazil will embark on the 26th of March for this country, intending to make the tour of North America and Europe. This is the age of travel for the sovereigns.

— President Grant is negotiating for the sale of his farm near St. Louis. He asks for it $237,000.

— Freezing to death is the newest pastime.

— No danger of a "green Christmas" this year.

— The games have been taken in doors, and the fancy goods stores are full of them about these times.

— The elegant residence of Hon. E. D. Winslow, at Auburndale, was totally destroyed by fire on Saturday night last. The dwelling and its contents were burned up.

— A Centennial Legion is proposed, to be made up of one hundred volunteers from each of the Old Thirteen States.

— The Italian Department of the Centennial Exhibition has had applications for six thousand different objects from as many individuals.

— The Express messenger on a train from Kansas City to St. Louis was bound by a gang of robbers, who took away safely some $20,000.

— It is now said that Thomasen, the dynamite fiend, denied having any accomplice in his design to blow up a vessel in mid-ocean.

— The Mexicans and Indians are raiding on the Texas border at such an outrageous rate that it looks as if the Government would have to take the matter in hand.

— Samuel Lapthon, the Treasurer of Kansas, is discovered to have been selling forged school bonds of the different counties of that State.

— The railway managers, after repeated attempts, have found it impossible to agree upon freight rates from Boston and New York to the West, and the Erie Road proceeds on an independent basis.

— The expected developments in the Chicago whiskey ring are causing a great deal of excitement among men in high places.

— The Register of Probate for Kennebec County, Maine, has been arrested on the charge of forgery. How many people want to make money without honest labor.

Editor's Table.

JORDAN, MARSH & COMPANY.—The Holiday season is honored by no ampler preparations than this well-known firm has made for it at their extensive warerooms this year. It is bewildering to look in and view the movements of the people through their different departments. An army of clerks is actively serving a nation of people. Shelves, counters, cases and draws are piled, filled, crowded and overrunning with seasonable goods, the most exquisite fabrics, costly importations, the product of American factories and mills, stores of articles for personal wear, and perfect outfits for housekeepers. The warehouse of this firm is a mart of itself, thronged from morning till night with purchasers who know quality and appreciate bargains. Their advertisement in another column gives but a faint idea of the splendid reality of their princely traffic. The markets and manufactories of the world are laid under tribute to their continued call, that the people of New England may get the benefit of their distribution. Their vast place of business is richly worth a visit as an essential part of the Holiday delights and satisfactions.

☞ The annual convention of the New Hampshire State Grange at Manchester, was well attended this week, and the proceedings went off with harmony and an energetic spirit. The Patrons of Husbandry are evidently in a flourishing condition in the Old Granite State.

☞ Hon. E. S. Tobey's accession to the office of Postmaster of this city, is greeted by the entire community with a sincere welome. Mr. Tobey brings the highest qualities to the discharge of administrative duties of no common responsibility. In point of importance in business, the Post Office in this city is the second in the country.

☞ The sudden change from coldest winter to the bland airs of spring is an experience without a parallel in the lives of many at present on the scene. Human constitutions are getting pretty smartly tested.

☞ Wednesday was Forefathers' Day, and Tuesday was the shortest. The rest of the week fairly belongs to Christmas.

☞ Mr. Herbert H. Ham has invented a convertible chair, which, when unfolded, represents a washbench, as shown by an illustration in another column. Both pieces of furniture are indispensable to any household, and being combined in one, answer the purpose of two household articles, making it thus a space saving and very practicable addition to one's stock of furniture, well worthy the rapid sale which the inventor is already enjoying.

☞ In order to dispose of surplus stock of winter clothing, Messrs. Macullar, Williams & Parker invite the public to avail themselves of the bargains offered. The sale, which commenced Saturday, December 18th, consists of overcoats, business coats, pantaloons and vests, and will continue until about January.

☞ The Boston Almanac and Business Directory for 1876 has just been issued. It contains a complete business directory of the city of Boston; the census of Massachusetts, 1875; a colored map of Boston, showing the new ward boundaries, and the usual miscellaneous information.

☞ *The Galaxy* for January is at once solid and brilliant, like many more of the rich gifts of the season. Dear Lady Disdain is brought to a conclusion. The Norwegian poet Boyesen contributes a long poem, Birting the Strong. There are articles in the very eye of the time on The National Survey and Woman's Occupations. The story of Reuben Dale continues. The Japanese State gives an account of theatres in Yeddo. Justin McCarthy writes on The English Interregnum, and Kate Hillard is poetic over Apple Blossoms. King, Church, Nobles and Sinecures is appropriate to the general discussion of the time on these various institutions and incumbrances. Richard B. Kimball writes About Bankers, and there is a second readable paper on Walter Savage Landor. The Editor's table in all its parts is, as usual, replete with wit, humor, and substantial instruction. For sale by A. Williams & Co.

☞ *The Eclectic* for January, 1876, offers two fine mezzo frontispiece engravings,—The Flower Gatherers and Gen. Washington and his Family. It begins a new volume with the new year, and it is therefore the best time to subscribe for a monthly that comes freighted to your table with the choicest products of the best current literature. Among the attractive papers of this number are the Memoirs of Saint Simon, Materialism and its Opponents, by Prof. Tyndall, Sherman and Johnston, The History of Twins, Two Danes; Thorwalsden and Andersen, Automatic Chess and Card Playing, The Dutch and their Dead Cities, O'Connelliana, The Natural History of the Arctic Regions, and the Recent History of the Pitcairn Islanders. To this must be added good poetry and some superior tales. Such a list of contents ought to be irresistible. For sale by A. Williams & Co.

☞ The January *Galaxy* contains the firs part of a new serial story by Wm. Black, author of "A Princess of Thule," "Strange Adventures of a Phaeton," etc. It is called "Madcap Violet." The same number also contains a very important article on our National Surveys, by Capt. Chas. W. Raymond, and the "English Interregnum," by Justin McCarthy. Articles by Prof. H. H. Boyesen and Albert Rhodes will also be found in the same number. A. Williams & Co. have it.

☞ *The Problem of Health*,—How to solve it,—is a new book, published by B. B. Russell, of this city. Its author is Dr. Reuben Greene. As its title indicates, it is devoted to the discussion of the practical questions pertaining to the preservation of health, to which it contributes a good stock of sensible ideas and apt illustrations. The general advice, as well as the moral sentiments, to be gathered from a perusal of its pages will much more than repay one for the cost of the volume. Good health is the first condition of human usefulness, as it is of human happiness.

☞ *A Romance of Perfume Lands*, or, the Search for Capt. Jacob Cole, is the title of a truly unique extravaganza, in the way of a story of travel and adventure, by Clifford, Perfumer, who also publishes it from No. 22 School street, Boston. The illustrations are jolly enough, besides being according to art. The narrative at times is as graceful as gossamer and as airy as a perfume, and everywhere carries you along on the wings of a high-hued imagination. To read the book of Clifford, Perfumer, whose plot we shall not attempt to pursue, is to excite a desire to go and see what Clifford, Perfumer, has got behind this high and blossoming hedge of a story.

☞ *In Doors and Out* is the republication, in a sort of Centennial style, of a volume of tales published by their author twenty-one years ago. They are of great variety, and sketches of life as viewed by observing eyes in front of reflective capacity, many years gone by. They are quite as readable now as then, and even more interesting in view of the reputation achieved by their author in the interim. The book is got out with extra taste and neatness, and will make a timely gift to a friend.

☞ We have at hand, by courtesy of the publisher, John P. Morton & Co., of Louisville, the Journal of Proceedings of the Ninth Session of the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry. It forms a most interesting record.

☞ *The Reading Club* and Handy Speaker, edited by George M. Baker, is a nice little collection of prose and poetry pieces, of a serious, humorous, pathetic, patriotic and dramatic character, for reading and recitation. This is No. 3, and it is just the thing for the purposes for which it is intended. Lee & Shepard publish it.

Text-Book of Scientific Agriculture, with Practical Deductions, for the use of schools, colleges and private students, makes a fine volume of condensed agricultural knowledge, scientifically imparted, from the pen of E. M. Pendleton, M. D., Professor of Agriculture and Horticulture in the University of Georgia. It ought to prove of solid value in the work of elementary instruction. Its divisions are simple; and its definitions lucid. The work of publication is handsomely performed by A. S. Barnes & Co., of New York. Nichols and Hall, of this city, have it for sale.

☞ *The Musican and Artist* appears with the New Year, asking for public favor. It is to be published monthly, and is of course devoted to the two accomplishments which its title suggests. Among the contributors to the first number are Charles Barnard, Hon. Henry K. Oliver, Keller, Julius Eichberg, Eben Tourjee, and Helen M. Knowlton. It contains much promise. Published by Edward A. Samuels, Boston.

☞ *Wide Awake* approaches the New Year in a Holiday number, with an overrunning list of good things and lively, pictures included. It enters on its second year an established success. The boys and girls that do not covet this beautiful monthly can never have seen it. D. Lathrop & Co., publish it in beautiful style.

THE DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.—The meeting of the Vermont Dairymen's Association at Rutland, January 19, 20 and 21, promises to be one of the best ever held. The programme as far as announced is an excellent one, and there is a good prospect of a large attendance. The following prizes are offered for competition at the meeting:

Best tub 50 lbs. June butter, three barrels Onondaga Factory filled dairy salt; second best, two barrels. Best tub fall butter, two barrels; second best, one barrel. Best tub winter butter, two barrels; second best, one barrel. Most meritorious display of butter, quality, statement, etc., to be considered, oscillating churn. Best July cheese, not less than 25 lbs., two barrels salt; second best, one barrel. Most meritorious display of cheese, Cornish & Curtis' rectangular churn.

Every competitor must become a member of the association and must furnish an instructive statement of all the material facts regarding the production of the article.

Best essay on the management of a butter dairy, by a lady, accompanied by samples of butter, one of the Brandon double beam scales; like essay on cheese dairy, with samples, a similar prize. The essays are to become the property of the association.

TEACHERS' CONVENTION.—The thirty-first annual meeting of the Massachusetts Teachers' Association will be held in the Girls' High and Normal School building, West Newton Street, December 28, 29 and 30. At 4.30, Tuesday afternoon, 28th inst., the meeting of the Directors will occur; at 7, the business meeting of the Association, and at 7.30, the Rev. Noah Porter, D. D., President of Yale College, will deliver an address on "Science and Sentiment." At 9.30, Wednesday morning, the Rev. Thomas Hill, D. D., late President of Harvard University, will read a paper on "The Culture of the Imagination," and will be followed by Professor Benjamin F. Tweed of Charlestown, whose topic will be "Principles and Methods," and by Professor Benjamin W. Putnam, who will lecture on "Decorative Art." The afternoon of Wednesday, will be devoted to the reading and discussion of topics in the High, Grammar and Primary School sections. In the evening, the Rev. A. P. Peabody, D. D., Professor in Harvard University, will speak on "Popular Education in its Relation to our Form of Government." At 9 o'clock, Thursday morning, the choice of officers will be made, and the reports of the committees will be read, after which the following papers will be read and discussed: "The Study of History a Means of Culture," the Rev. Henry Blanchard of Worcester; "The Relation of the Grammar School to the High School," A. D. Small, Esq., of Salem; "Education at the Centennial," the Hon. J. D. Philbrick and Professor Walter Smith; "Silent Forces in Education," Mr. James F. Blackenton. The convention will adjourn at 12.45.

New Advertisements.

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OVERCOATS, cut long, $8.
KELY-IAN OVERCOATS, $10, $12, $15, $18 and $25.
CHINCHILLAS, BEAVERS, and other varieties of OVERCOATS, at the lowest possible prices.
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SPECIAL BARGAINS
FOR
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Announce that they will continue their low prices, advertised some three weeks ago, during Christmas week, and will add some new and still greater inducements. Their arrangements for the sale of Holiday Goods have been made on a very extensive scale, and no lady, in shopping for a Holiday Gift, should fail to examine their unusually large assortment.

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Best Plain Twill Color-Border Full Size
LADIES' SILK MUFFLERS
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Sold last season at $1.12 1-2.

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From 25 cents to $2,00 each.

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LADIES' AND GENTS' SILK MUFFLERS.
EXTRA SIZE,
Of the Heaviest Twilled Silk made,
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At 25 cts., 37 1-2 cts. and 50 cts.

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PEKIN DUCKS; headquarters stock; 1st and 2d importation. Hens as Thrivers; descended from a 62 lb. pair; $10 pr. Narragansetts; fine birds from select stock; $10 pair. Brahmas, L. & D. B. & P. Cochins, from P. Williams stock. Rouen Ducks; fine stock; $6 to $8 pr. Jerseys & Cotswold Sheep at low prices. Address W. CLIFT, Mystic Bridge, Conn.

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LARGEST STOCK IN AMERICA; quality extra; prices reasonable. Priced List free.
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mailed free for 25 cents.
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Patented June 15, 1875.

SOMETHING NEW!—HAM'S CONVERTIBLE CHAIR AND WASH BENCH, Patented June 15, 1875, is the most useful, space-saving and practical piece of furniture that has ever been in use. Manufacturing them on a large scale, we can afford to sell them at a very low figure, $4.50. All dealers keep it.—agents wanted in every town.
HERBERT H. HAM, 376 Broadway, Boston.
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CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY TREATED
Without the use of the Knife or Caustics
And without pain.
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NEW HAVEN, CONN.,
Enclosing twenty-five cents for Pamphlet and Postage.
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A SURE CURE for this distressing complaint is now made known in a Treatise (of 48 octavo pages) on Foreign and Native Herbal Preparations, published by Dr. O. PHELPS BROWN. The prescription was discovered by him in such a providential manner that he cannot conscientiously refuse to make it known, as it has cured everybody who has used it for Fits, never having failed in a single case. The ingredients may be obtained from any druggist. A copy sent free to all applicants by mail. Address DR. O. PHELPS BROWN, 21 Grand Street, Jersey City, N. J.
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Macullar, Williams & Parker's
Fine stock of Winter Clothing to be sold at greatly reduced prices, to dispose of surplus stock before the end of the year.
We have selected from our stock and marked at retail,
SPECIAL LOTS OF OVERCOATS,
TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS.
Former prices $28, $30, $32.
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TWENTY DOLLARS.
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TWELVE AND FOURTEEN DOLLARS.
Former prices $14, $15, $16, $18.
SPECIAL LOTS OF PANTALOONS,
SIX AND SEVEN DOLLARS.
Former prices $7, $8, $9, $10.
SPECIAL LOTS OF VESTS,
TWO AND THREE DOLLARS.
Former prices $3, $4, $5.
These lots comprise surplus stock to be disposed of during this month, the sale commencing on SATURDAY, 18th. The quantities are not large, and the goods are all desirable. Our friends and customers advised to make early selections, in order to secure the best bargains.
Macullar, Williams and Parker.
400 Washington Street.
dec25 1t

THE BEST FITTING
AND
MOST PERFECT
ULSTERS
AND
OVERCOATS
which have ever been offered in Boston, may be found at
VERY LOW PRICES,
—AT—
JACOBS & DEANE'S,
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—ALSO—
Alikinds of WINTER GLOVES, MUFFLERS, HDKFS, SILK UMBRELLAS, RICH SUSPENDERS, NECK WEAR, &c. They are
NICE FOR PRESENTS.
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BOSTON ALMANAC
—AND—
BUSINESS DIRECTORY
For 1876.--No. 41.
CONTAINING A COMPLETE BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON,
CENSUS OF MASSACHUSETTS, 1875.
A Colored Map of Boston,
SHOWING THE
NEW WARD BOUNDARIES,
And the usual Miscellaneous Information.
Sent postpaid on receipt of price.
CLOTH, $1. GILT, $1,25.
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SAMPSON, DAVENPORT & CO.,
155 Franklin Street, Boston.
Also for sale by Booksellers generally.
Trade supplied by the NEW ENGLAND NEWS CO.
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COUNSELLOR AT LAW,
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EIGHT miles from Boston, a MARRIED MAN, Protestant, without children, to take charge of a gentleman's place. One who thoroughly understands Farming and Gardening, also the care of horses and cows; may address, with references, "F.," Post Office Box 2158, Boston.
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THE PROBLEM OF HEALTH.
R. GREENE, M. D.
This book is now ready for delivery, and may be obtained at the office,
34 TEMPLE PLACE, BOSTON,
Or will be sent, postage paid, on receipt of $2. Circular free. Liberal inducements to agents. Address
R. GREENE, M. D.,
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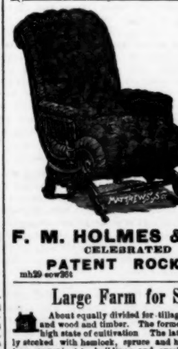

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Parties ordering both of the above collections, will receive the new DOUBLE WHITE GERANIUM Alfine Staley, (which alone sells for $1,50), as a Premium.
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I would invite especial attention to this class of work which has no equal in its modern IMPROVEMENTS, superior WORK and SUBSTANTIAL FINISH.
Special attention given to putting up Furnaces and Ranges in any part of the country. Nothing but what is strictly first-class work is manufactured by me. Nos. 99 and 101 Blackstone St., Boston. Mass.
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LEVER AND CYLINDER
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FOR SALE, a few Thoroughbred RWES, in lamb by imported Ram. Price $30. Also, a few EWE LAMBS, price $25.
The above are very fine in form, size and wool. They are all out of imported Ewes of PLIMPTON, Ipswich, Mass.
nov27-4t

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A rare chance to buy Saw Mill, with Circular Saw manufactured by Blake & Co.
Also, Shingle and Gig Saw, all in good order, with one of the best Water Powers in Eastern Connecticut, well located for business. Also, a Farm bordering the Mill, containing one hundred acres. This property is located in the beautiful town of Woodstock, Conn., and must be sold.
Price, $7500.00.
Any one wishing to purchase, can communicate, or see
A. A. PAINE, Admr.
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Farm for Sale.
Fifteen miles from Boston, 80 acres of good land in a high state of cultivation, well divided for mowing, pasture, etc. House, 12 rooms, in good repair, situated on high land, shaded by fine Elm trees, with driveways, etc., commanding a fine view of the surrounding country, ½ mile from depot and churches, ¼ mile from school, a good neighborhood; Barn 55x30 feet, with necessary outbuildings, large Apple Orchard of choice fruit, 100 nice Pear Trees of choice varieties, 600 Currant Bushes, a large lot of Grape Vines, and Cherry Trees, also Gooseberry, Blackberry and Quince Bushes, a nice Strawberry Bed, Asparagus, etc. Will keep 12 head of Cattle, milk a lot at the door, a nice Peat Meadow of several acres, and Cranberry Meadow, etc. Price $4000, half cash, balance on easy terms.
This is a rare choice for a person wishing to purchase; it must be sold immediately; it is seldom one sees such a desirable Farm for sale at so low a price. Stock and tools will be sold with the place if desired. Address or apply to
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CONSUMPTION
IT CURES
COUGHS, COLDS BRONCHITIS,
WHOOPING COUGH, HOARSENESS,
PAIN AND SORENESS IN THE CHEST,
BLEEDING AT THE LUNGS.
INCIPIENT CONSUMPTION, &c
TRY IT!
AND IT WILL DO YOU GOOD.
Price.....$2 per Bottle.
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OFFICE OF
Great Natural Remedy for Consumption,
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PARTRIDGE COCHINS, DARK BRAHMA, PLYMOUTH ROCK, and 27 other varieties of Fowls and Eggs, for sale by
E. E. PERKINS,
238 Essex St., Salem, Mass.
Enclose and send stamp for Circular. sn16-tf

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
Norfolk, ss. Probate Court.
To all persons interested in the estate of MARTIN A. Smith, late of Stoughton, in said County, insane person.
WHEREAS, CLIFFORD KEITH, the Guardian of said ward, has presented for allowance the account of his Guardianship;
You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be holden at Quincy, in said County, on the second Wednesday of January next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be allowed.
And said Accountant is ordered to serve this citation by publishing the same once a week for three successive weeks, in the Massachusetts Ploughman, a newspaper printed in Boston, the last publication to be two days at least, before said Court.
Witness, GEORGE WHITE, Esquire, Judge of said Court, this eighth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five.
dec18-3t* JONATHAN COBB, Asst. Register.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
Middlesex ss. Probate Court.
To the heirs-at-law, next of Kin, and all other persons interested in the Estate of RUTH HOLT, late of Medford, in said County, deceased.
WHEREAS, a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased, has been presented to said Court, for Probate, by THOMAS HOLT, who prays that letters of administration with the said will annexed may be issued to him, no executor being named in said will.
You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Cambridge, in said County of Middlesex, on the first Tuesday of January next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, against the same.
And said petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof by publishing this citation once a week, for three successive weeks, in the newspaper called the Massachusetts Ploughman, printed at Boston, the last publication to be two days, at least, before said Court.
Witness, GEORGE M. BROOKS, Esq., Judge of said Court, this fifteenth day of December, in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five.
dec18-3t J. H. TYLER, Register.

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ASTRAL OIL.
Absolutely SAFE!
Perfectly Odorless!
Burns in any Lamp!
ILLUMINATING QUALITIES
SUPERIOR TO GAS!
Manufactured expressly to displace the use of highly volatile and dangerous oils.
IT'S SAFETY under every possible test, and its perfect burning qualities, are proved by the fact that hundreds of thousands of families have continued to use it for years, and
NO ACCIDENT
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CHARLES PRATT & CO.,
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1876!
THE LADY'S ALMANAC
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Centennial Volume,
Gilt edged, finely bound, illustrated, and filled with Centennial Miscellany, comprising also an Original Ode, with Original Music, being "A Song of Praise for Our Country, with Aspirations for its True and Enduring Glory."
Price 50 Cents.
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"Being a favorite annual, sold everywhere; is as dainty as ever in appearance, and its contents relate appropriately to the interesting historical and patriotic topics of the Nation's Centennial."—*Boston Daily Advertiser.*
"Is the Centennial issue of a favorite annual, which numbers its new issue as the 23d volume."—*Mass. Ploughman.*
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"Pretty as usual, ready for the work basket, where it will at once be a daily convenience, and the first of the almanacs."—*Boston Transcript.*
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nov27-4t

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SOFA LOUNGES, &c
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The Poet's Corner.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman

THE NATIVITY.

BY SOPHIA ANDREWS.

In a lowly stable bed,
To the eye of Faith 'twas given
To discern the hidden God,
The Lord of Life and Heaven.

Thrice blessed be the day
Which gave our Saviour birth,
The Christ-child as he lay,
The Lord of Heaven and earth.

He is the Prince of Peace,
This meek and lowly one,
The Sun of Righteousness
From whom all blessings come.

He heals the broken heart,
He dries the mourner's tears;
With pitying love and tenderness
He for the wretched cares.

Then Glory be to him,
A never fading crown,
He gives the weary rest
And comforts the cast down.

He drank the bitter cup,
And gave his life to save,
He laid it meekly down,
The sacrifice was made.

GOOD NEWS ON CHRISTMAS MORNING.

Good news on Christmas morning,
Good news, O children dear!
For Christ, once born in Bethlehem,
Is living now, and here!

Good news on Christmas morning,
Good news, O children sweet!
The way to find the Holy Child
Is lighted for your feet.

Good news on Christmas morning,
Good news, O children glad!
Rare gifts are yours to give the Lord
As ever Wise Men had.

Good news on Christmas morning,
Good news, O children fair!
Still doth the one Good Shepherd hold
The feebiest in his care.

Thank God on Christmas morning
Thank God, O children dear!
That Christ who came to Bethlehem,
Is living now, and here.

—*St. Nicholas for January.*

Ladies' Department.

A DOUBLE WEDDING.

BY ANN S. STEELDS.

Marjorie Wallace represented to me all that was noble, generous, self-sacrificing in womanhood. My gratitude to her began when I was ten years old, and she came to the hovel where my mother had scraped out scanty food for herself and for me longer than my memory recalls. She lifted me from that mother's dead, cold form, where I was sobbing out my childish agony, and covering my thin, chilled limbs in her own velvet cloak, carried me in her arms to her carriage, to her home, to luxury, ease and love. I had never had love. My mother loved gin, and not her child. I was fed when drink had made her good-natured, beaten when drink aroused a brutal demon in her heart. I tell this that it may be understood what I owed to Marjorie Wallace. No, I can never tell it. She carried me to her home; she clothed me in garments as soft and fine as her own; she shared every luxury of her splendid home with me; she gave me teachers for all studies suited to my age. As I grew to womanhood she introduced me to society as her adopted sister. Best of all, she loved me!

She was twenty-five when she took me home, and for eight years I can recall only happiness. I had to whim ungratified, no reasonable wish crossed or denied. If I had been indeed the sister she called me she could not have lavished upon me more tender care and affection.

When I was eighteen I had a lover who won my whole heart. I gave him love, unconsciously, and when his words showed me what my own sensations meant I shrank back affrighted. With the intuition of deep, grateful affection, I knew that Marjorie had wrapped up her life in mine. She stood utterly alone in the world. Her paid companion and housekeeper was a matron of middle age, whose whole soul was absorbed in preserves, pickles, and crochet work. In her loneliness she had taken me into her great, noble heart, and when I left her I knew I should leave her desolate.

So I shrank back from the avowal that was such an ecstasy of delight, such a bitter self-reproach. I thought I had conquered all traces of emotion in my face as I went from the garden where we had walked—my lover and myself—to Marjorie's sitting-room. But she looked into my face, with her soft, beautiful eyes shadowed by a troubled inquiry.

'Have you quarrelled with Stephen?' she asked.

'No—I have not quarrelled—we—that is —I do not think he will come again.'

For the first time she frowned sternly.

'Is it possible that you are that base trifler, a coquette,' she said, in a voice full of indignation, 'that you have led Stephen to believe you loved him only from vanity, and have rejected his honest, true love?'

In my deep pain that she could so misjudge me I sobbed out the truth, that I loved Stephen, but that it seemed to me a base ingratitude to desert her.

'Child! child!' she said, softly, gathering me in her arms, 'Heaven forbid your life should be sacrificed to me! Did you ever hear among our friends of my love story?'

'Never!' I said, earnestly. 'But I knew there was a great grief in your life, at some time. I could see that in your eyes, even in your smile. It is tender and sweet, but never joyous.'

'When I was your age,' she said, gently stroking my hand as she spoke, 'I was called handsome, and I was as light-hearted as a bird. My orphanhood was an event so long past that I have no recollection of my parents; but my uncle was father and dear companion to me. He was a wealthy man, and gave me every advantage wealth can bestow. And when Arnold Halcombe—'

I startled at that name, but Marjorie did not notice, continuing her story:

—'wooed me for his wife, Uncle Charles made no objection, though my lover was a poor man, compared to my uncle. We were very happy in those days, very happy! Arnold was a true, noble man, one to whom love was a sacred word, a woman's heart a sacred trust. We had been betrothed nearly six months when Thanksgiving Day was drawing near, and Uncle Charles decided to accept an invitation to spend the day with some city friends; and remain at a hotel for a week, to give me an opportunity to do some shopping. For in the spring I was to be Arnold Halcombe's wife. We started off gayly, and spent a most delightful week in New York. Uncle Charles was a resident there during several years before he retired from business, and could take me to visit all points of interest. We made large purchases for my bridal outfit, and returned home.

'Alas! we returned, mourning heavily, where we had left so gayly. Upon our trip from the city, Uncle Charles, in some way, made a false step upon the platform of a railway car, and fell, injuring himself so severely that immediate amputation of both legs became necessary. It was in my power then to repay the devotion and care that had been lavished upon me, and I faithfully endeavored to alleviate my dear uncle's sufferings in every way in my power.

'It was then, dear, that my heart was torn as yours is torn to-day. The basest ingratitude seemed to me involved in my marriage, necessitating a divided duty, even if my husband would consent to live here. That, too, I hesitated to ask, for, as you know, the life here will better suit a retired elderly man or woman than a young, ambitious aspirant for the world's honors and profits. So I made my choice.'

'But your choice was to remain with your uncle.'

'Yes, dear, I remained here. Arnold Halcombe, the noblest man I ever knew, did not make my duty harder by anger at his dismissal. Very sadly he admitted the necessity of the case and left me. Even then he would have corresponded with me, have held himself bound; but that I would not permit. My uncle's life was not in danger, and I would not let Arnold waste the best years of his manhood, without wife or home. So we bade each other farewell, and a few months later I heard that my lover had joined a party of men going to Australia.

'And have you never heard of him since?'

'Never! My uncle lived six years. When I was most desolate, after his death, I found you. You have been my comfort for eight long years; but I do not mean to tie your young life down to mine. When I die, I hope to leave you happy in your own home. Stephen knows this, dear.'

'Marjorie,' I whispered, 'did Arnold Halcombe marry?'

'I never know, dear.'

'But you—do you still love him?'

'Yes, dear, I shall love him while I live.'

She told me no more then of her heart history, but talked of Stephen, of our love, of her entire sympathy in our future. I think she must have written to him, for in the evening he came again, and we were betrothed.

I knew that Stephen must return to his business in New York in a few days, but he promised to return in a few month's time, to spend Thanksgiving. Marjorie gave him a cordial invitation to be our guest. But when Marjorie left us alone, for the confidences lovers exchange, I plunged at once into the subject that had been in my mind all day.

'Stephen,' I said, 'tell me again about your cousin's offer.'

'Why, do you want to go to Australia?' he cried, in amazement.

'No, but I want to know something about your cousin.'

'There is but little to tell. When I was a mere boy he went to Australia, a poor man. He invested a very small capital in sheep, hiring his farm. Gradually he increased his stock, bought the farm, and became an enormously wealthy man. About six months ago he came to New York, intending to remain there. But he wishes still to retain some of his Australian possessions, and is looking for an agent, to whom he offers far greater advantages than those he enjoyed himself. When he first proposed to me to go, I thought, as I think now, that I preferred to pursue the business I have here, and grow rich slowly than to exile myself, perhaps for years. But had you persisted in what you said this morning, I think to-morrow I should have accepted my cousin's offer.'

'Is your cousin married?'

'No, indeed! And yet he is as free from bachelor eccentricities as I am. He had some disappointment in his youth, but it never soured or embittered him. He is a splendid fellow, one of the handsomest men I ever saw, and as noble as he is fine looking. But why are you interested about him?'

'I will tell you when you come again. In the meantime, will you use your influence to persuade him to come with you?'

'Here?'

'Yes, here! Bring him for Thanksgiving. Make any excuse you like, only bring him!'

'But I do not understand,' began Stephen.

'Never mind! I have promised to tell you then.'

'I will bring him, if he will come!'

I was sure he would come! It was hard to carry a secret hidden from Marjorie's loving eyes, for an entire month, but fortunately we were soon engrossed in wedding preparations. For Marjorie, remembered her own broken love-dream, had consented and won my consent to Stephen's wish to be married in January.

So we spent the late October and early November days in stitching busily upon the finery that every bride wishes to take to her new home. And as our needles flew in and out upon the dainty work we reserved from that in hired hands, Marjorie told me more of her own youthful life, revealing unconsciously how purely unselfish she had ever been, how her whole life had gradually led upward to the noble self-sacrifice that left her at thirty-three still single.

When Thanksgiving came all my nervous anxiety about our preparations was attributed to my desire to have Stephen pleased; but, strange as it may seem, I was not thinking of Stephen. He was to come on the train due at half-past eleven, and the carriage was sent to the station to meet him.

I was dressed early, and fussed about Marjorie till every her quiet gentleness was roused to opposition.

'Why, child, it is absurd,' she said, as I dragged my favorite of all her dresses from the wardrobe.

'I shall look like a goose in that, in the morning.'

'But we will have no chance to dress again,' I urged, 'and this is so becoming!'

I had pulled her hair down, and was twining the magnificent raven lengths into the most becoming coiffure my skill could compass. In the glossy braids I twisted a half wreath of fine leaves with the scarlet blossoms I had stolen from the conservatory. The dress Marjorie would not wear, but she chose a heavy black silk, with trimmings of thread lace, and let me put a scarlet bow upon the fine lace at the throat, and coral earrings in the small white ears.

'I look like a flamingo!' she protested.

'You look like a queen!' I persisted.

And she did look superbly handsome. The folds of rich silk trailing upon the ground suited well her tall, noble figure, and her face was always the most beautiful one I ever saw. Her life of constant usefulness, charity, and intellectual development, had left its seal in the depths of her large dark eyes, the smile upon her perfect mouth.

It required some diplomacy to escape observation when I led our visitors into the house, but I invented an errand that sent Marjorie to my room just as the carriage drove up.

Stephen was accompanied by his cousin, and my first look into his handsome face convinced me that memory was busy at finding himself in Marjorie's house. I gave scant greeting to Stephen before I drew Arnold Halcombe into the library. I scarcely know in what words I told him of my debt to Marjorie, of her confidence to me, and my plan, of which I was careful to assure him she was totally ignorant. But his answers sent me with flying feet to seek my benefactress.

I found her in my room vainly searching for the ornament I had fast in my pocket, but my face caused her to pause in the task.

'What good news does Stephen bring, that makes my little girl so radiant?' she asked.

I put my arms about her, and holding her fast I said, almost sobbing in my eagerness:

'Marjorie, since the day you lifted me from my poverty and suffering to utter happiness, I have never ceased to pray that at some time I might be permitted to bring some brightness to you!'

'Dear child, every hour you are with me answers your prayer,' she said, lovingly.

'But I never hoped,' I said, softly; 'of his true, unchanging love for you; of his faithful devotion to the one deep affection of his life; of—Marjorie, Marjorie, of his presence here to-day to tell you this himself!'

I was sobbing by this time in excited joy. But Marjorie, only a little paler, her eyes slowly irradiating with glorious light, said:

'Here? Arnold here?'

'In the library, waiting for you!' I answered, suddenly releasing her, plunging down stairs, rushing in upon patient Stephen in the drawing room, and executing a *pas seul* for his benefit that certainly would have admitted me to any lunatic asylum in the country. Then I pulled him down, and in whispers told him all about it, laughing and crying, till he declared I would wind up with a fit of hysterics.

But I didn't. I was as proper and prettily behaved as possible when Marjorie came in, leaning upon Arnold Halcombe's arm, with every lurking shadow chased from her face by the gentle happiness there, while he, erect and proud, looked as a man does who gains the supreme desire of his heart after years of waiting.

We were too late for church, but if ever true, fervent thanksgiving ascended from a grateful, happy heart, I am sure it rose from Marjorie's on that November day, when Arnold came to her.

We had a double wedding in January, and Stephen carried me to his New York home; but we make frequent holidays to the lovely home where Marjorie gives us cordial welcome, and where, I am sure, she has the desolation I dreaded to leave, all swept away in the happiness of her husband's presence and devoted love.—*N. Y. Ledger.*

COST OF KEEPING DOGS.—It is not an unusual thing for us to hear gentlemen say, that they would keep a good dog, or a brace, but for the expense of feeding, or for the expense of boarding them during the close season. Let us say that a full grown setter may be kept in first rate condition at such times at an expense not exceeding twenty-five cents per week. One pound of corn meal, costing rather less than two cents and a half, a pound of scraps costing one cent, when well boiled, is sufficient for one dog per day. During winter this kind of food will keep a week. We have kept dogs for years on this food, and know that when regularly fed as above they keep in first rate condition. While dogs are being worked during shooting season, in addition to the above, they should have some meat.—*Forest and Stream.*

☞ He smarts not under poverty who has learned to be content, he frets not under affliction who is submissive to the Father's will, and lays aside his own. Keep your desire within bounds.

☞ Genius is not a single power, but a combination of great powers. It reasons, but reasoning is not reasoning; it judges, but it is not judgment; it imagines, but it is not imagination; it feels deeply and fiercely, but it is not passion. It is neither, because it is all.

☞ Cincinnati is said to be less troubled with dogs than any city in the country. And we don't mean to insinuate any thing when we recall that it is also the great sausage centre of America.—*Buffalo Express.*

MODERN SIGNS AND WONDERS.

A CORRESPONDENT AMONG THE SPIRITS.

At the present time in New York city, there are manifestations claiming invisible power as their cause that put to shame, as marvels, anything that was done eighteen hundred years ago. Whatever may be the truth in regard to the nature of these mysterious manifestations, of their origin or purpose, I do not propose to discuss. Whether they are the work of disembodied intelligences, the practice of art magic, or of elementary spirits without souls, I shall not essay to decide. I shall simply relate a few facts for the truth of which I am able to vouch, without the least fear of being compelled to recant the same.

In a small, unpretending building on the Eastside lives a pleasant faced, unassuming woman, who is, in spiritualistic parlance, a "medium"—that is, in her presence, when in a deep trance, disembodied spirits manifest themselves in tangible form, speak to you, shake hands with you, eat fruit, and in many other ways manifest decidedly mundane tendencies. In spite of Katie King and other well known *exposes* of spiritual delusions, the strange stories concerning this wierd exhibition created a desire to see for myself the truth.

The *modus operandi* was simple. A cabinet about five feet in heighth, and just wide enough for one person to sit within it, and constructed with hinges so that it can be folded together, without a bottom, but closed at the top, with an aperture about a foot square in one of the doors, across which, on the inside, a curtain is drawn, completing the paraphernalia. This cabinet stands at one end of the room, into which, after the medium was searched by a committee of ladies selected from those present, her mouth covered with several thicknesses of adhesive plaster, to prevent her from using her vocal organs, and her hands securely tied behind her back, she entered.

No sooner was the door closed than a deep gruff voice within the cabinet assumed the role of master of ceremonies. This voice announced the fact that the spirit of the first husband of the medium, calling himself Uncle Ben, was the person speaking; that he was a sea captain, and lost his life at sea. Under the direction of this defunct sea captain, those present joined hands, sang, kept silence, or entered into discussions as commanded by him to do.

After about five minutes spent in singing, the curtain slowly shifted to one side, and there appeared at the aperture a face of rare beauty, having a shapely head, with full, open brow, blue eyes, chin beard, and soft, graceful moustache. This apparition announced himself as Uncle Ben and at once entered into conversation with us one and all. One of the ladies presented him with a bouquet, which he took with graceful acknowledgments. He gave a brother Mason the Masonic grip, and conversed in a suitable language of the order, to which he evidently belonged. To prove that he was neither a pasteboard mask or ragmuffin, he opened and shut his eyes, gritted his teeth together, and laughed with hearty good will while he was performing these antics. After entertaining us for a half hour in this way, giving his experiences in the other world, to us unseen, singing songs for us, and discussing theological dogmas, he bade us good night, to give way for other spirits who, he said, were there for the purpose of meeting their friends. Another quarter of an hour was spent in singing, when there appeared a face entirely different in cast, in the color of its hair and eyes, and without either whiskers or moustache.

This appearance could not speak distinctly, and displayed symptoms of great physical weakness. He could only whisper the word 'Brother;' and, to our great surprise, was recognized by a person present, who declared that he was a stranger in the country, and that his home was thousands of miles from New York. He said this was his first accquaintance with spiritual manifestations, and was so disinclined to cultivate his new-made spiritual acquaintance, that he decidedly refused to step forward and enter into conversation with the apparition that he declared was his dead brother, and who wrote for him his name upon a card, furnished at his own request for that purpose. This spirit, evidently pained at the repulse, retired, and in its place there came a face with snow-white hair and beard, and announced his name to be St. John, said that he was a captain of a Hudson River steamer, and, in consequence of personal troubles and annoyances, had shot himself. For this act, he said he was not in that happy condition that he hoped to be some time, and he took the opportunity, thus offered him to visit earth, to warn all men against going into spirit life without an invitation. After giving some important details of his death, he disappeared.

One of the company asked after a friend who had lately died, and Uncle Ben replied that he was there, but could not materialize; but that his little child was with him, and, if possible, he would have that materialize. The next time the curtain rose, a tiny hand, holding a geranium leaf, trembled and quivered in delicate beauty for a few moments and disappeared, returning several times.

One lady recognized a former lover, who declared, with emphasis, that he was ever with her—greatly to the discomfiture of her husband, who sat beside her.

With this appearance, Uncle Ben announced the *seance* at a close, and ordered the lady to be taken from the cabinet.

She was found to be in a deep trance, with cold perspiration standing on her forehead and face, pulse very faint, and breathing scarcely perceptible. It was twenty minutes before she was restored from that comatose condition to natural life again. Her hands were also fearfully swollen, from the effects of remaining so long tied in an uncomfortable position.

Full of wonder, I left the weird place, and communicating the wonders that I had seen to my friends, found myself the victim of good-natured criticisms, to the effect that I had been easily duped, was the subject of fraud, hallucination, trap-doors, masks, charlatanism, etc., etc. Determined not to be victimized in this manner, and, in thinking over the evening's work, unwillingly concluded that I had been, I called upon the lady and asked her if she would come to my house and give the same manifestations; to which request she promptly acceded, naming an appointment at an early day. To this demonstration I challenged the attendance of my accusers.

Promptly at the hour, the lady made her appearance. We had easily improvised a cabinet by hanging a blanket before a recess in one of the upper rooms, and were ready for her. She submitted to the most searching examination of her person, and in addition to the plasters over her mouth, a napkin was tied over it; and with her hands securely tied behind her, she entered the enclosure formed for the occasion. She had scarcely seated herself, when lo! Uncle Ben's face promptly came to the aperture, and bade us a cheery 'Good-evening.' The eyes and ears of my accusers were wide open to note my discomfiture, and, instead, took in the situation with wonder and amazement, and my reputation for good-sense, so lately damaged, was restored with promptitude and good-will. Here was a phenomenon that those present knew was not the result of fraud and collusion. A human face, with all the organs belonging to its perfection, with the fine special senses in full operation —the same displaying intelligence—and giving a detailed account of himself as a mortal man who had passed the mystic river of death, and through some law, whose operations are yet unknown to science—some celestial alchemy, whose formulas are hidden from mortal sense—had suggested from the atmosphere, for present and temporary use, a material covering for his spiritual body, with which to demonstrate the fact of immortality.

Whether this claim be well founded or not, one thing is certain: the facts concerning the phenomena are what an enlightened public sentiment have to do with. That these unaccountable manifestations of occult power do occur without the aid of fraud and collusion, in spite of the exposures that have been made of spurious exhibitions, is well established if human evidence is of any value. It is also true that these phenomena are unrecognizable by any scientific discovery yet made in regard to them—that our scientists, with a few exceptions, ignore their existence in *toto*—displaying as much bigotry in this determination as the most arrogant of ecclesiastical pretenders do in theological matters.

The organization which is based upon the belief in alleged spiritual communications with the other side of death, numbers many millions, although not yet twenty-five years old; while there are many, very many, who do not attach themselves to orgchizations, who believe in the possibility of such communication. Is it wise on the part of scientists to assume so lofty an air in disregarding these things?

The Dialectic Society of London has not so regarded the question; it has exerted its best energies for its elucidation, and the Royal Society of Science of Russia are at present devoting itself to it, also.

America cannot afford to remain silent upon this subject, for this country may truthfully be said to have fathered this delusion—if delusion it be—as modern spiritualism had its birth in the Rochester knocking nearly thirty years ago, which, in spite of the decision made by the medical faculty at that day sitting on these strange manifestations of unseen power that the raps were produced by the toe joints of the young girls, have gone on from the elementary raps and table tappings, which threw the community at that time into perturbation and flutterings, to manifestations so marvelous that few men witnessing them have been brave enough to testify to their occurrence over their own signatures in the public prints of the day. Still, the subject is tabooed, its obscure origin used against the possibility of its value to science or religion, and social and ecclesiastical power combined is arrayed against its examination.

By all means, let us have this matter sifted. It is in the interest of all concerned to have this done by the best minds in the world. If there be some occult power capable of developing hitherto unknown powers of mind over matter, causing ponderable bodies to float in the air contrary to all preconceived notions of gravitation, it is not beneath the study of the most learned in the exact science to this end of discovery. Agassiz and Cuvier spent years in discovering the size of a fish bone, and Darwin a life-time in tracing the missing link that binds in brotherhood animal and man, and yet they sneer when asked to look into the law, through which, outside all known human methods, forms and faces are made to appear that are recognized by intelligent men and women as former inhabitants of the planet.—H. M. B. *in N. Y. Sunday Times.*

A SOUTHERN CHRISTMAS EVE.

'T was Christmas in a Southern town,
The air was soft and sweet,
And the sinking sun looked brightly down,
On the gay and crowded street,
While roses and violets blooming near
Made my little girl say, "Is it Christmas here?

"At home the snow is on the ground,
The air is cold and clear,
And greens and holly are hung around,
To help the Christmas cheer.
How can St. Nicholas come in his sleigh,
If all the snow is melted away?

"What will he do with his big fur coat,
The icicles on his hair?
The tinkling bells wont sound a note,
With no Jack Frost in the air.
'T would just be folly, O mother dear!
To hang up my stocking—no Christmas here!"

But I said, "I see the Christmas star
High in these Southern skies,
And the Christmas light is streaming far,
And shines in the people's eyes.
I'm sure St. Nick will find the way
Without Jack Frost and the reindeer sleigh."

Early my little girl went to bed,
That the night might shorter seem;
And scarce had she pillowed her curly head,
Than she dreamed a beautiful dream,
And wondrous music seemed to bear
A message of joy on the balmy air.

Nearer and nearer it seemed to come,
Sweeter and sweeter it grew,
Till the Christmas light was in the room,
And the Christmas glory too;
While the angels' song rang from the sky,—
"All glory be to God on high!"

"All glory be to God on high,
And peace, good-will on earth!"
Thus joyous rose the angels' cry,
To hail Our Saviour's birth;—
And are the radiance passed away,
The light had dawned on Christmas-day.

—*E. M. S., St. Nicholas for January.*

UNCLE JOB'S GIFT.

Johnnie sat perched upon the barnyard fence, his hands thrust deep down in his pockets, his blue eyes wide awake with wonder. A novel position for Johnnie; ordinarily, his brisk little body bobbed to and fro like a windmill's and no wonder Aunt Martha regarded him amazed, from the kitchen window.

The fact is, Johnnie was thinking—as only boys can think when some great surprise is upon them. His soberness dated back to the early morning.

'Come down to the meadow,' Uncle Job had said, 'when the clock strikes three. I am going to make you a present.'

Such a future to an eight-year-old boy! Johnnie's joints stiffened instantly; he could not eat his dinner, much less eke out the interval with his usual sports; his life seemed lost in that speck of afternoon. So up on the fence post he perched, his blue eyes wide open with wonder, his fingers hammering great holes in his trousers' pocket.

Clang, clang, clang—the town clock struck three! The fence that had known Johnnie suddenly knew him no more. Straight westward he trotted his brisk little body, till, breathless, he stood in the meadow, where Uncle Job was diligently stacking hay.

Johnnie approached the hay rifts with a kind of awe.

'Please, Uncle Job—'

That gentleman looked up with a smile. It seemed like dinner to Johnnie when he was impatient for desert.

'On time, eh, my boy?' said Uncle Job, cheerily, and then throwing down his rake, he drew Johnnie towards him, and continued:

'I was to make you a present, I believe, Johnnie. And so I will—the grandest one you ever had in your life. You mayn't like it at first. It ain't a top nor a jack-knife, nor anything like that; but it's so beautiful that it shines all over; and though it's easily broken, you can break it ten times a day, and yet use it again whenever you like. It's meant for use too; it thrives better by wear and tear. The only trouble is to keep it Johnnie.'

Here Uncle Job paused, but Johnnie was too absorbed to notice. At present he mightn't like, perhaps, though it was so beautiful it shone all over; a present he could break at will, and yet use it whenever he pleased—a present it was hard to keep—neither a top nor a jackknife—

'What can it be?' he exclaimed at last aloud.

'It's a rule,' broke in Uncle Job, softly. 'A golden rule.'

Johnnie stared straight down into Uncle Job's eyes. No mischief there; rather an earnestness deep and solemn.

The boy seemed bewildered. He was familiar with rules masculine, feminine, and neuter; but golden ones were strange to his experience. You see, Johnnie was a little waif that Uncle Job had recently adopted, and his native atmosphere had not favored these extra buds and blossoms. Still Johnnie knew what gold was, and after a minute, he turned his blue eyes, brimming with curiosity, 'Show it to me,' Uncle Job, please.'

Uncle Job made no movement towards his pocket, though Johnnie eyed it closely. He said, simply:

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.'

Johnnie's lip quivered. There was no beauty to him in the unfamiliar words. He seemed lost in the belief that a great disappointment was in store for him.

"But the present,' he gasped.

A big tear stood in Uncle Job's eye. He tightened his arms around Johnnie, and kissed his sad little face.

'My boy,' he said, 'will you say those words with me?'

Johnnie complied, wonderingly, and out upon the summer air floated like a hymn:

'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.'

Then continued Uncle Job, softly:

'Johnnie this is all I have for you to-day, these dozen words. No gift at all, you think it now; but if you resolve to keep it, it will make you so rich and happy that you won't wonder Uncle Job thought it worth a half mile trip to the meadow. And, Johnnie, you know one gift don't hinder another—there are hosts of tops and jackknives yet to get, and hosts of days to get them in,' and Uncle Job's eyes twinkled so mysteriously that Johnnie was moved to a merry laugh.

Johnnie had great faith in Uncle Job. He could not understand it yet he believed implicitly all that he had heard, and that, if he kept the golden rule, he would be the richest and happiest boy in the world. So he listened eagerly to Uncle Job's explanations, and resolved to try always to act towards others just as he would like them to act towards him.

I wish I could tell you all the wondrous trials he made, and how vainly he strove to reap the promised good. For it was not always smooth walking in Johnnie's path; he had his trips and tumbles; he turned sometimes to the right and left. But by effort he grew strong, and his reward was rich indeed. No boy was loved like Johnnie—none had so many friends. And to manhood grown, no gift does he regard more gratefully than the one Uncle Job gave him that summer afternoon.—*Young Folks' News.*

☞ Simon B. Marsh, composer of several works on musical instruction and church psalmody, died recently at Albany, N. Y. Prof. Marsh was the composer of the well known air "Martyn" usually adapted to the words "Jesus, lover of my Soul."

THE LOST CHILD.

Some years ago I was stopping at a little village on the Delaware, in one of the upper counties of New Jersey. Looking from my chamber window early one morning, I observed an unusual commotion in the village—men, women and children collected in groups at different points, and all seeming greatly excited. I hurried out to learn the cause, and was informed that a little girl of five years, the daughter of a widow living some two miles from the place, had been missing since about four o'clock of the previous afternoon, and it was supposed she had wandered off into an extensive wood not far from the dwelling, and had got lost. The nearly distracted mother, with some of her nearest neighbors, had searched for her the day previous, as long as they could see, and during the night a messenger had arrived at the village with an appeal to the citizens to turn out *en masse*, and endeavor to recover the missing one, which many were preparing to do. I immediately resolved to make one of the number, and in less than a half an hour was on my way to the wood with a party of friends, and where were soon collected not less than a hundred persons of both sexes, and some of them quite venerable.

After a general consultation, we divided into small parties, each taking a certain portion of the wood, and agreeing to meet upon the summit of a hill which was visible from our place of starting; but in case the child should be found before reaching the hill, a messenger was to be instantly despatched to the village, and have a six-pounder discharged, as a signal that success had crowned our efforts.

As the different parties were about to commence their search, each under the guidance of a neigbor living in the vicinity, my attention was called to a woman running across the fields and gesticulating wildly, and some one remarked that it was the almost frantic mother herself. We waited until she came up to us, and I do not think I ever saw more terrible grief depicted on a human countenance than was depicted in her pallid face. She was in reality only thirty years of age, and naturally rather handsome; but the deep lines of grief and anxiety now drawn on her expressive features, gave her the look of sixty. Her eyes, red from weeping, were wild and unsettled; her lips ashy and quivering; her hair was dishevelled, and her dress was badly torn in different places, as if from rushing among bushes and brambles. With clasped hands and wild, hurried glances from one to another, she ran up to where I was standing, exclaiming in the most piteous, heart touching tones: "Oh, for heaven's sake, find my child! My darling!—my sweet innocent!"

We began our search in earnest, spreading out our party in a line some ten or fifteen feet apart, and beating the bushes in our direct course. In some places the woods were very close and thick with underbrush, and here our progress was always slow and tedious—for though we made a good deal of noise, and called the name of Ada at least once a minute, yet it was not certain the little wanderer would answer, even should she hear us, being perhaps so bewildered and frightened as to shrink from her friends—and so, to make our work sure, we left not even the smallest hiding place unsearched; but again, when the woods were open, we pushed forward pretty rapidly, and succeeded in reaching the summit of the hill mentioned, just as the setting sun was lighting it with its last golden rays. Some of the villagers were there before us, and others came up soon after, and the meeting there was a serious one, as no one could give the least tidings of the missing child; and it was painful to think, not only of her forlorn condition and sufferings, but of the deep mental agony of the poor, loving mother. So sincere was the sympathy of some of the villagers, that one man proposed to give a hundred dollars to whoever should find the child alive, and nine others quickly joined him, making the handsome sum of a thousand dollars reward, which it was rightly believed would prove a great stimulus to exertion on the part of many who might otherwise prove comparatively indifferent.

In fact, the news of the reward did fly rapidly, and the effect was almost magical. Several of those present who, a minute before were so tired from their day's work as scarcely to be able to drag their weary limbs home, now hurried off to get their suppers, procure lanterns, and continue the search all night, while numbers at the village, who could not find it convenient that day to give their time to this work of humanity, came out with an eagerness that clearly showed how potent was the spell of money.

Not being in very good health myself, and wishing to husband my strength for the following day, I went home, and went to bed at an early hour. Though very much fatigued, I could not sleep for a long time, and moved restlessly to and fro, my mind filled with painful thoughts of the poor child dying of starvation in some lonely spot, and the poor mother shrieking away her reason over the horrible discovery. At length came a confused, half conscious state, and then that peculiar condition in which we dream and know we dream, yet have no desire to wake. I thought I was hunting the child, as I had been that day, and that besides the persons who had pursued the search with me, there was also a stranger, a man with a pale, ascetic face, and dressed not unlike a clergyman. Walking close up to me, and fixing his dark, expressive eyes intently upon me, he said, in a mild, pleasant tone, with a winning smile; "You are troubled about this lost child—it does credit to your heart—and I have come to show you where she is."

"Oh, if you know, speak!" said I; "not because of myself, but for her sake, and her almost frantic mother's."

"Follow me!" returned the stranger, at once leading me away from all the rest.

Then I thought we were at the foot of the hill already more than once mentioned, at the very point where my companions and myself had begun its ascent, and that instead of going up as we had done, the stranger turned to the right, and led the way through a kind of swamp, till he came to a kind of grassy meadow, through which flowed a sparkling rivulet. This he crossed, and continued on till he came to another hill, which was steep and rocky. Clambering up this hill, past rock after rock, we soon came to a ledge that was very difficult of ascent, and around the base of which the shrubbery was very dense. Turning into this thicket, and keeping around a hill, we soon reached a point where the ascent to the top of the rocks was comparatively easy, and on coming to the summit of the ledge, there sat the poor little girl, crying and wringing her hands, and occasionally stopping to gaze with a shudder upon the dreary scene below.

At this point of my dream I awoke; but the whole scene had been so real, that it was some time before I became convinced that I had been dreaming and had not seen the child at all; and even then I was so impressed with the idea that the vision was something more than a chance fancy, that I felt quite confident I should find her on the morrow.

At the first streak of day I arose, started off in haste, telling my family of my dream, and that I really expected to find the lost one. A large number of the villagers set off at the same time as myself, and on our way to the wood we met nearly as many returning home from a fruitless night's labor, some of them completely worn down with a constant vigil and travel of four and twenty hours. To none of those going out or coming in did I communicate my secret hope; but managing to separate myself from all, I repaired with all haste to the spot where the stranger of my dream had led me from my companions.

To my great delight—I might almost say surprise, though I confess I half expected the result—I discovered the very swamp I had gone through in my sleep; and beyond it, too, the very same meadow and rivulet. My heart beat fast. Could it be, after all, that I had been directed by some high intelligence? and that I was destined to save a sweet little life, and bring joy to the almost broken heart of a fond mother? I fervently prayed it might be so.

I hurried on, and still saw everything exactly as I had seen it in my dream. I came to the hill, ascended it, and discovered the ledge. I was almost to the end of my journey! I should soon know! Hark! Did I not hear a child's cry? My heart seemed to rise to my throat and choke me! Could the dream be a clairvoyant sight?

I plunged into the bushes, and ran around up the hill, panting with exertion and excitement. I gained the summit of the rocks, looking eagerly, almost wildly, at every object.

Ha! what was that? *Something* was before me, stretched out on a rock, like the form of a child! I bounded forward, and uttered a loud cry of joy!

Yes—the poor, sweet little girl was there, her golden haired head pillowed on her white arms! At the sound of my voice she lifted a beautiful face, with a pair of soft blue eyes, and gave me a look I shall never forget. The next moment she was in my arms, strained to my heart, and I was weeping and thanking heaven.

"Mamma, mamma! take me to my dear mamma!" murmured the poor, sweet little creature, in a feeble tone.

"Yes, my poor, dear little innocent! heaven bless you! I will take you to your dear mamma," I answered, in a choking voice.

The rest is soon told. I carried the child home, a distance of five miles, for she was too weak to walk. Some one told the mother before I reached the house; and with a loud shriek of joy she ran out to meet me, but fainted and fell, ere she could clasp her child, overcome by her emotion.

It was decided that I was entitled to the thousand dollars reward. I accepted it, and then made a present of it to the poor widow, whose heartfelt blessings afforded me far more happiness than could be found in gold.

INELIGIBLES IN LONDON SOCIETY.

And here we may return to a certain class of men in the grand monde to whom we have already alluded, and whom English novels have dubbed "detrimentals." Socially speaking, they are the equals of the peer and by far the superiors of the millionaire; matrimonially speaking, they are supposed to be non-existent. They are as distinct from the choice parts as one geological stratum is from another. They are younger sons, country cousins, struggling barristers, officers in infantry regiments, government clerks, engineers and surveyors just returned from Mexico or India, attaches of insignificant and remote legations, or small landlords up in the Hebrides or in the Irish bogs. One of these is perfectly free to dance with a duke's daughter, take her to her mother's carriage, or bring her ices and claret-cup; but it is understood to be just as impossible for him to ask her to marry him as it would be for her father's gardener or gamekeeper. He knows it, and generally abides by the decree. If this foolish understanding was not in the way, there would be many more happy and congenial "marriages in high life." But there are girls who despise their training and their parents' desires, having a mutual affinity for such men, and, if you watch the mingling of ingredients in a London ball room, you will see what a magnet they are to undesirable partners. To do the girl justice, she is generally as willing to marry one of her favorite partners as to dance with him; only men are shy and proud, and fear to risk a refusal or face the parents' opposition. These men are the pleasantest, the most natural, and best in society. Not being put on a pedestal to be worshiped, they are entertaining and unaffected, and have a hundred little domestic talents and resources that would make life with them smooth and happy to any sensible woman. They generally end by dropping out of "society" if they marry at all, either falling victims to some designing and aspiring girl to whom they stand relatively in as high a position as a young duke to a rich merchant's daughter, or happily but obscurely settling down in the company of a modest, ladylike country girl, a clergyman's daughter, or a forlorn and unprotected young governess. If they remain in "society," it must needs be as "ineligible" bachelors, but useful and convenient friends. After thirty or thirty-five, most of them have too much good sense to lower themselves to this.—*Lady Blanche Murphy in the Galaxy.*

SONG FOR CHRISTMAS.

Oh! dreary doth the winter blast
Come o'er you snow-capped hill;
Close shut the windows—bar the door—
Keep out the blighting chill;
And let the song resound the hall,
And Christmas mirth begin:
The moon of clouds there are without
The less of clouds within.

Now let the festive board be spread,
Leave summer's languid face,
And join the dance with airy tread,
With merry winter's pace;
Or throng around the blazing hearth,
As done in olden time,
When hypocrites were scarcely known,
And laughing was no crime.

I'll have no neighbors' deeds called o'er,
No scandal is my guest;
And let us think, whate'er they've done,
They did it for the best.
And let the merry loud round game
Fill up that want and dearth,
And all be youth and happiness,
And innocence and mirth.

Then let the festive board be spread,
Far, far, and wide around,
And let those most in need of all
Amidst our feasts be found;
Or throng around the blazing hearth,
As done in olden time,
When hypocrites were scarcely known,
And laughing was no crime.

RAYMOND, THE ACTOR.

This is what happened to John